

Official

Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy

2024 - 2030



safe in...
warwickshire

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Warwickshire is one of the safest places to live, work and visit in the country. Our cases of serious violence, particularly those involving a weapon, remain low for the region and nationally.

But we cannot be complacent.

As a county we are not immune from the impacts of serious violence, be that as a result of Organised Criminality and County Lines, as a result of local Street Gangs, or linked to the violence in a public place.

Despite the considerable efforts of policing and community safety partners in Warwickshire, rates of violence with injury continue to increase in the county. There is also real concern about the rate of knife-related violence, as well as the number of individuals found by police to be carrying knives and other weapons.

And we cannot ignore the impact of Violence Against Women and Girls. As highlighted in the Strategy, domestic abuse continues to be some of the most under-reported and most impactful crimes in Warwickshire. Yet despite being under-reported, over a third of all violence with injury reports to Warwickshire Police relate to domestic violence.

The physical and psychological damage that Serious Violence can cause to individuals, families, our communities and wider society, is immeasurable. Even one death or life-changing injury in Warwickshire as a result of Serious Violence, is one too many. Together, we should have a collective ambition of zero incidents of Serious Violence in the county.

And preventing Serious Violence does require a collective and collaborative approach. No one agency alone can prevent Serious Violence. It is everyone's responsibility. Police action alone will not solve the societal problems that underpin the causes of Violent Crime. It requires a long-term, whole-system, multi-agency solution.

This means a combined, sustained effort by all key organisations. We need to make this effort, not only to protect our communities today, but to make a generational change that will protect the communities of tomorrow.



Philip Secombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner for
Warwickshire

But if we want to prevent Serious Violence from occurring in the first place and make a difference over the long-term, we need to understand the causes of Serious Violence in Warwickshire; and what we can do individually, together, and with our communities, to remove those causes, and prevent the cycle of reoccurrence.

This will not be an easy task, but it is a most important one. It requires a step-change in approach from all of us. This strategy sets the framework and direction in which we can achieve this goal and will help bring about real and lasting change.

Foreword

The Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy sets out a long-term commitment by partner agencies to tackle violence and the causes of violence.

The Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 sets out a Statutory Duty for partner agencies and educational establishments to work together to develop plans to prevent and reduce violence. However, as portfolio holder I want this strategy to be much more than a response to the Duty. If we are going to address the causes of violence, we have to fundamentally shift the conversation to what can we do to prevent violence, challenging the very concept that violence has any place in our society.

This is ambitious. Our strategy is ambitious. We should be ambitious because we already know that experience of violence restricts choice, limits opportunity and creates the very environment for those who intimidate, coerce, threaten and inflict violence to act with impunity.

I hope that in reading this strategy you will recognise steps that you, your school, organisation or community can take that can help prevent violence. Importantly, you will not be alone. We have provided links where you can get help and advice.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the families of loved ones who have tragically lost their lives to serious violence. These are not statistics, these are sons, daughters, brother, sisters, fathers and mothers. They are friends to many, and they are part of our communities. No family should ever have to face such a tragedy and my heart goes out to them. I hope this strategy will bring renewed commitment to do everything in our power to prevent violence and its devastating impact.



Cllr Andy Crump
Warwickshire County
Council Portfolio Holder
– Fire and Rescue and
Community Safety & Chair
of the Safer Warwickshire
Partnership Board

Executive Summary

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSC) 2022 sets out a Statutory Duty for specified authorities in a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. It should include identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur, the causes of that violence and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

The Duty requires partner agencies to develop a Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Strategy. Warwickshire has developed a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy with the following vision:-

“To make Warwickshire a place where people recognise the causes of violence, break the cycle and prevent further serious violent crime occurring, thereby reducing serious violent crime rates in the county”.

The duty provides an opportunity for agencies to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence.

However, addressing serious violence and its causes was already a priority for the Safer Warwickshire Partnership. Local communities across Warwickshire have been experiencing an increasing impact from serious violence, particularly through county lines illegal drug supply and the personal conflict that this creates, and there has been a collective focus on domestic abuse which has been a priority for partner agencies across the county.

In Warwickshire we have defined serious violence as including domestic abuse where violence is occurring (referred to as “domestic violence”), weapon related violence, violence against the person, county lines and violence driven through social media as well as the causes of violence.

Domestic abuse is defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and describes the behaviour of one person towards another if they are aged over 16, are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive. The act also defined children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse as victims in their own right.

Based on the evidence gathered through the Strategic Needs Assessment, the key findings and recommendations are:-

- Warwickshire is a safe place to live, with relatively low levels of serious violence. However, the causal factors that can lead to violent conflict are just as prevalent in the county as in other areas of the country.
- The case studies analysis identifies a series of impact factors or “triggers”, as set out in detail below, which can lead to a sense of lack of belonging and an escalation of risk-taking behaviour in childhood and adolescence. Developing interventions to address these triggers, at the times when they occur the most, provides the best opportunity to prevent this escalation and serious violence.

Intergenerational domestic abuse, particularly where children witness domestic abuse on multiple occasions, is a key contributing factor to social and emotional challenges in later life. There is an opportunity for partnership agencies and educational providers to work together to better identify and support children who are impacted by domestic abuse

Street based serious violence, particularly where weapons are used, is often driven by personal conflict and feuds, that have built up over time. There is an opportunity for partner agencies to use a wide range of intelligence, including social media intelligence, to intervene and prevent conflict escalating.

There are specific local areas in the county which are at higher risk of being impacted by serious violence. Focusing on these areas is a priority for all partner agencies.

In light of the findings, our approach is based on three key Public Health priorities to violence prevention:-

- Preventing violence before it happens
- Responding to the immediate risk
- Taking a long-term approach.

The strategy sets out a Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Framework, based on national best practice approaches to tackle violence and the causes of violence. Our intention is to work collaboratively to embed this framework across our partners, schools, community and voluntary organisations so that their staff can recognise the early signs or triggers, know how and where to seek support and play a part in co-producing interventions.

A multi-agency Serious Violence Delivery Group reporting to the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board will oversee the delivery of the outcomes. These are set out in a jointly developed Theory of Change Model which forms part of the Strategy.



The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board will produce an Annual Report, setting out the progress in delivering the outcomes and recommendations from the strategy.

Information and advice, or where to seek support on any of the areas covered in the strategy is available and can be found on the Safe In Warwickshire website. <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/contact-us/>

Our Vision

“Warwickshire is a place where people, recognise the causes of violence, break the cycle and prevent further serious violent crime occurring, thereby reducing serious violent crime rates in the county”

Our Definition of Serious Violence

We have adopted the World Health Organisation definition of violence as follows:-

“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”

Krug et al, ed. World report on violence and health. 2002, World Health Organisation: Geneva

(A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention HM Government Oct 2019¹)

However, our definition will include coercive and/or controlling behaviour and financial abuse which are part of the underlying causes of violence, as set out in this strategy. This will ensure our approach aligns with other key strategies which address other forms of violence, such as Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls.

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862794/multi-agency_approach_to_serious_violence_prevention.pdf

Why do we need a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy?

A Statutory Duty to Prevent Serious Violence

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSC) 2022 sets out a Statutory Duty for specified authorities in a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. It should include identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur, the causes of that violence and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

The Duty states that the following Specified Authorities should and will be accountable for their activity and co-operation:

- Chief Officer of Police.
- Local Authorities in the defined local area, for Warwickshire this includes, Warwickshire County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- Fire and Rescue Authority, including the Fire and Rescue Service.
- Integrated Care Boards (for Warwickshire we have included NHS Trusts and Public Health).
- Probation Service and .
- Youth Offending Services.



The Act also provides that educational authorities must collaborate with specified authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area, if their involvement is requested. In Warwickshire, we recognise the vital role that our educational providers have in preventing violence. Our ambition is to create a framework across our schools and colleges where we can share best practice, embed programmes and interventions that can prevent violence.

In addition, Prisons and the Children and Young People Secure Estate are required to actively

participate when requested to do so by the specified authorities for the area.

Local policing bodies, being Police and Crime Commissioners, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a police authority, are not specified authorities under the Duty. However, they are strongly encouraged to take on a role as lead convener for the local partnership arrangements for the Duty in order to support the development and implementation of Serious Violence Duty

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.

Whilst the duty does not specify a lead authority, the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board will take the lead on behalf of all of the named Specified Authorities, working collaboratively with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Criminal Justice Board.



Why is Serious Violence Prevention a priority for Warwickshire?

Warwickshire is a safe place to live compared to many other areas across the country. Our levels of serious violence and weapon related violence remain well below the national averages.

However, similar to other local authorities, the underlying causes of violence are just as significant in Warwickshire, meaning that the risk of violence escalating is as relevant to our families, schools and communities as elsewhere in the country.

Our evidence, based on the quantitative analysis and in-depth case analysis, sets out the key causal factors including:-

- **The intergenerational impact of domestic abuse.**
- **The key triggers that can impact on an escalation into violence.**
- **The triggers are most likely to occur in the age ranges of 0-3, 7-11, 13-16 and early adulthood.**
- **The lack of a sense of belonging can lead into personal conflict, feuds and other harmful behaviour.**

Preventing serious violence is everyone's business. Our strategy sets out what partner agencies, schools, local community and voluntary organisations can do to prevent violence and reduce its impact. Serious Violence is preventable, not inevitable. By working together we can make a real difference.

The key areas of serious violence covered in our strategy

In line with the government's 2018 Serious Violence Strategy², our strategy includes:

- **Domestic Abuse** – Domestic abuse is defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and describes the behaviour of one person towards another if they are aged over 16, are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive. Based on the evidence set out below, we will include a focus on the impact of intergenerational domestic abuse with a priority on children as victims.

Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- financial abuse (which is behaviour that substantially affects a person's ability to either acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods and services)
- psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

For the purpose of this strategy, reference has been made to "domestic violence". This is domestic abuse where a violent crime has occurred.

- **County Lines** – The exploitation of individuals, families or groups, through a network of drug supply from one area to another.
- **Violence involving a weapon** - Including knife crime, gun crime and corrosive substances..

- **Personal conflict and group on group violence** - Including feuds, disrespect, territory-based violence.
- **Serious violent acts driven through social media** – Using threats or coercion or using social media to promote serious violent conflict.
- **The causal factors of serious violence** – The underlying factors that directly impact on serious violence. These factors are set out in detail in our Warwickshire Transition and Influence section..

Warwickshire does not have town centre or night-time economy violence issues. However, the town centres of Nuneaton and Leamington Spa feature in the local profiles.

What the data tells us

Warwickshire is one of the safest places to live in the country. Our cases of serious violence involving a weapon remain low within the West Midlands region and compared nationally.

In the year ending March 2023, the rate of police recorded crimes of violence with injury in Warwickshire was 792 offences per 100,000 population. This can be compared to the highest national rate of 1,353 offences per 100,000 population in the West Midlands Police Force area.

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf

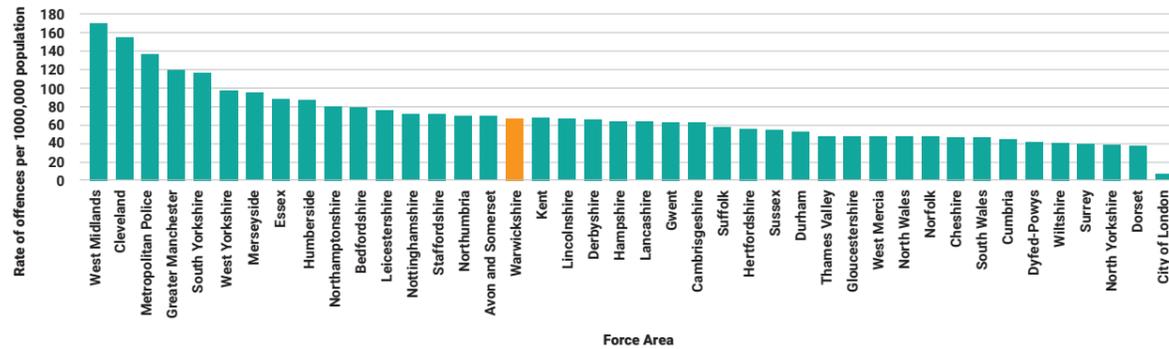
Warwickshire compared to National and Regional Trends

Knife crime

In the period April 2022 to March 2023, the highest rate for Knife Crime offences recorded in England and Wales was in the West Midlands Police area with 169.3 offences per 100,000 population. West Midlands Police area is consistently the force with the highest rate of these offences in England and Wales and has had an increase of 23.4% since the previous year.

During this period, Warwickshire Police recorded 67.8 offences per 100,000 population for offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, an increase of 5.5% on the previous year.

Figure 1 Police recorded crime offences involving knives and sharps per 100,000 population by Police Force Area, April 2022 to March 2023



Source: HMICFRS Digital Crime and Performance Pack

Violence with injury

In the period April 2022 to March 2023, the highest rate for violence with injury offences recorded in England and Wales was in West Midlands Police area with 1,352.5 offences per 100,000 population (a decrease of 2.2% from the previous year). Warwickshire Police recorded 792.0 offences per 100,000 population from April 2022 to March 2023 (an increase of 5.5% from the previous year).

Figure 2 Police recorded crime – violence with injury offences per 100,000 population by Police Force Area, April 2022 to March 2023

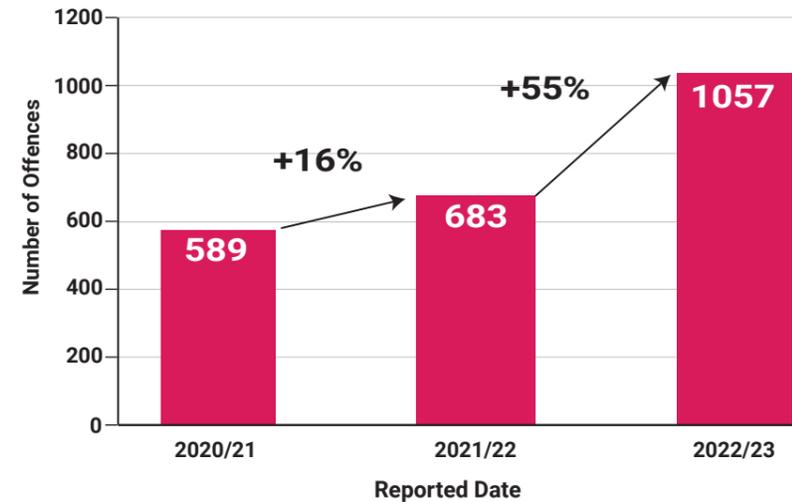


Source: HMICFRS Digital Crime and Performance Pack

Violence without injury

Violence without injury offences include harassment and common assault, as well as violence driven through social media. In Warwickshire, violence driven through social media offences have almost doubled between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

Figure 3 'Sending Letters with Intent to Cause Distress or Anxiety including social media messages and posts' (Intimidation only) Offences in Warwickshire, April 2020 to March 2023, with proportional increases.



Source: SAP Bi Warwickshire Police

Domestic Related Violence with Injury

Over a third of violence with injury offences in Warwickshire are domestic violence.

Although Warwickshire has lower rates of domestic violence compared to the national average, reported offences to Warwickshire Police have increased by 11% in the county over the last financial year (amounting to 159 extra offences in 2022/23). There was a 6% increase in referrals to the commissioned support service for domestic abuse in Warwickshire (177 more referrals in 2022/23), and a 16% increase in cases (117 more cases) discussed at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which receives referrals for high and medium risk domestic abuse cases.

County Lines

County lines often involves the exploitation of people through couriers drugs from one area to another, by involving people in the operating of the local market, exploiting vulnerable people and taking over their home, or coercing or controlling people so that they are forced into a criminal or violent lifestyle.

It has been estimated that there are around 2,500 county lines operating across England. The majority of county lines originate from large metropolitan areas, with those orchestrating lines running routes in multiple areas.

In Warwickshire, there are usually around 12-15 known county lines operating at any one time. The vast majority of these county lines originate from Coventry, Birmingham and the wider West Midlands region. However, there are county lines from other metropolitan areas operating in Warwickshire, such as London and Manchester. Warwickshire Police work closely with the Regional Organised Crime Unit for the West Midlands, to disrupt county lines activity and, since 2020, a series of successful police operations has contained the number of lines.

How county lines operate

There are three ways that county lines tend to operate:-

- **Direct supply** – Illegal drugs are brought into an area through a series of organised “drops” by individuals involved in running the line. Once the delivery is made they move to the next location.
- **Hybrid model** – County Lines operators identify local vulnerable adults, often with substance misuse or other vulnerabilities to help supply illegal drugs in the local area. This can include taking over an address or addresses in the local area. This can be referred to as cuckooing.
- **Recruitment and Grooming** – a network of local people, often young people, are recruited to both courier illegal drugs, be responsible for the line by holding the phones, collecting payments and enforcing when monies are owed, or there are potential threats from other illegal drugs supplies. These lines can be overseen by “olders”, often young adults who are part of a wider organised criminal network, who

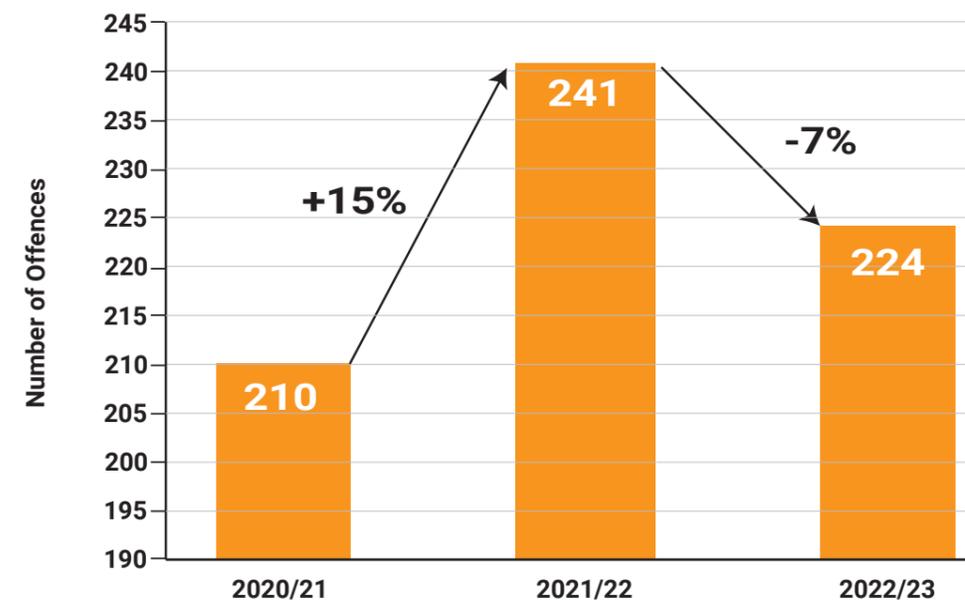
enforce against those local people trusted to run the line. This model is based on grooming people into the drug supply market, holding them in that lifestyle through a series of exploitation and threats of severe violence, extortion, disrespect, feuds or personal conflict.

The Safer Warwickshire Partnership has established a multi-agency Serious and Organised Crime Tactical Group, reviewing county lines and how they operate in Warwickshire and the local region. The group includes representatives from the West Midlands and designs a series of interventions, from disruption tactics, to support for vulnerable people being exploited through County Lines.

Knife Crime

Knife related violence with injury offences in Warwickshire has reduced in 2022/23 since 2021/22, following a rise the previous year. Over the three year period from April 2020 to March 2023, 5% of all violence with injury involved a knife (675 offences). Over half of these offences in Warwickshire occurred in a home address, 21% occurred in the street and 5% occurred in a licensed premises. Over one third of all knife related violence with injury offences during the three year period were domestic related.

Figure 4 Knife related Violence with Injury Offences in Warwickshire, April 2020 to March 2023, with proportional increases.



Source: SAP Bi Warwickshire Police.

The highest volumes and rates of violence with injury offences involving a knife over the three-year period have been in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough followed by Rugby Borough. The rates of offences in these areas are well above the county average of 1.12 offences per 1,000 population for April 2020 to March 2023.

During the three-year period there were 366 offences of violence with injury in schools, with 18 offences involving a knife. Volumes of these knife related offences have remained the same for the last two years. However, suspensions and permanent exclusions relating to ‘Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item’ have increased year on year since 2020.

Between October 2021 and November 2023 Trading Standards undertook 45 test purchase visits using underage volunteers to target traders across the county. Knives were sold on 12 occasions with no sales being made in 9 visits made in November 2023.

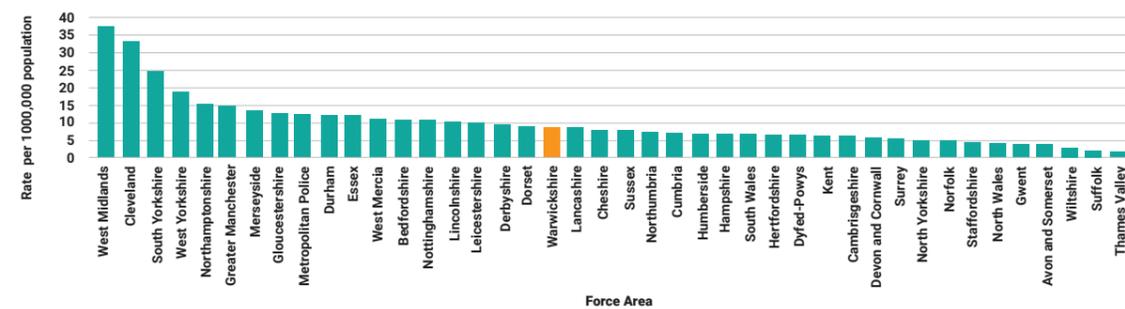
Firearm Offences

The National Crime Agency (NCA) states that levels of firearms crime in the UK remain amongst the lowest in the world; however, criminals continue to engage in firearms enabled crime.

Firearm offences in the UK, April 2021 to March 2022

Nationally the use of a firearm (whether it has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat) increased by 0.6% (35 offences) to 5,750 in April 2021 to March 2022 compared to the previous 12 months.³ For the year ending March 2023, the highest rate of offences was in the West Midlands Police Force area, with 37.3 offences per 100,000 population.

Figure 5 Police recorded crime - Firearms offences per 100,000 population by Police Force, April 2022 to March 2023



Source: HMICFRS Digital Crime and Performance Pack

Warwickshire has low rates of both volumes of firearm offences and the number of offences per 100,000, when compared nationally and to the West Midlands area. The number of recorded offences in Warwickshire during a 12-month period decreased by 16 in April 2022 to March 2023, from 70 to 54 offences.

³<https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/nsa-firearms> accessed 15th November 2023

Serious Violence Risk Profiling Tool

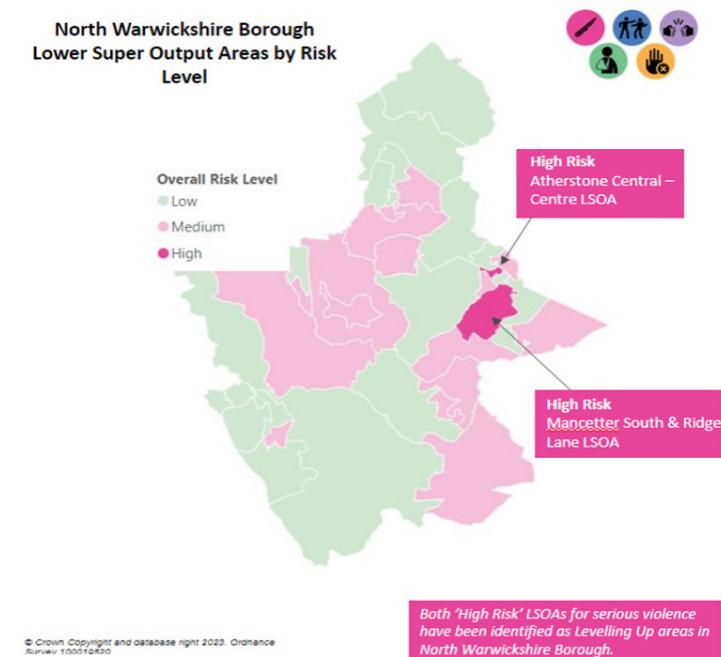
Warwickshire's Serious Violence Risk Profiling Tool has been created to sit alongside the Strategic Needs Assessment to help prioritise prevention activity at a local level. It provides a statistical risk analysis across 13 indicators at a low geographical level across Warwickshire. A total risk score for each Lower Level Super Output Area (LSOA) has been calculated, and each LSOA has been given a risk level of "Very High", "High", "Medium", "Low" or "Very Low" overall for each measure. Maps showing the LSOAs that are "High" or "Very High" are included in the local district and borough profiles available in the tool.

Local Profiles across Warwickshire

North Warwickshire Borough

Risk areas in North Warwickshire Borough are shown in the infographic below.

Figure 6 Risk Profile – North Warwickshire Borough



The Warwickshire Serious Violence Needs Assessment has identified the following priorities for North Warwickshire Borough:

⁴“non-domestic” is used to describe crime that is not flagged as “domestic” in Police data

□ **Domestic Violence with injury** – North Warwickshire Borough has the second highest rate of reported domestic violence with injury offences per 1,000 population, between April 2020 to March 2023 (8.31).

□ **Domestic Abuse** – particularly repeat victims. North Warwickshire Borough has a rate of 24.6 children per 1,000 affected by domestic abuse, higher than the Warwickshire average.

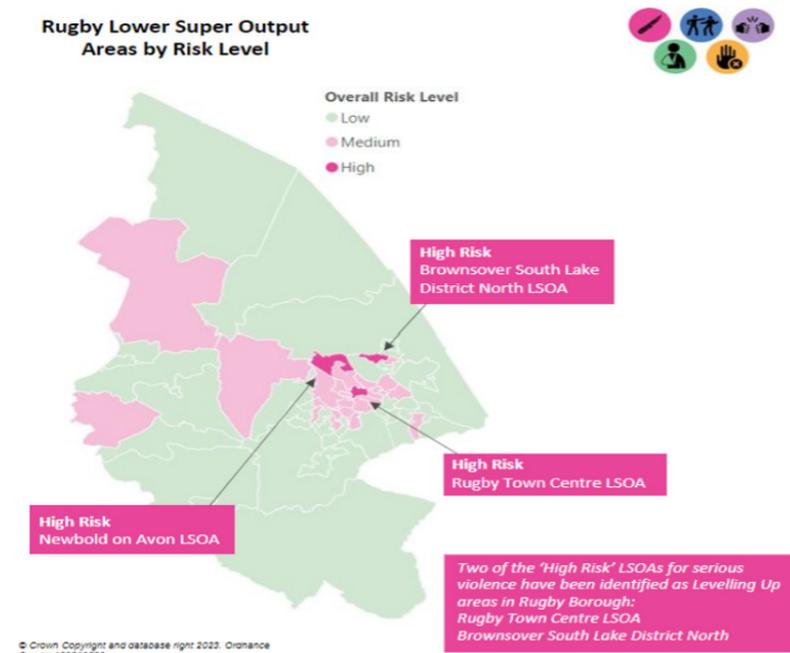
□ **School pupils, focusing on exclusions, persistent absence and attainment at GCSE** – North Warwickshire Borough has the lowest levels of attainment at GCSE of all the districts and boroughs in Warwickshire.

□ **Serious Violence Profiler Tool findings** – Mancetter South and Ridge Lane LSOA has a ‘High’ risk score in the borough. Analysis of non-domestic violence with injury⁴ showed the main area as Atherstone Town Centre LSOA although the figures are very low. There were a total of 50 recorded offences in the town centre in the three year period.

Rugby Borough

Risk areas in Rugby Borough are shown in the infographic below.

Figure 8 Risk Profile: Rugby Borough



The Warwickshire Serious Violence Needs Assessment has identified the following priorities for Rugby Borough:

- **Domestic Abuse** – there were 603 children were recorded as being linked to a Police recorded Domestic Violence with injury offences in the three year period (with 93 linked to two or more offences).
- **Public place violence** - Rugby town centre is a key location for non-domestic violence. Victims were most likely to be males aged 10 to 29 years old.
- **Controlling and Coercive behaviour** - the second highest volume and rate of offences occurred in Rugby Borough (200 offences, 1.74 offences per 1,000 population).

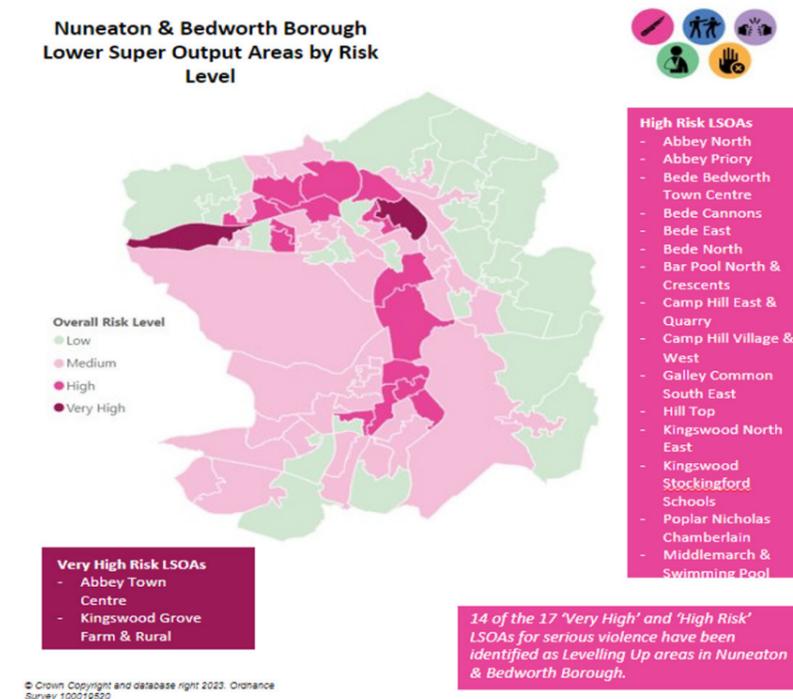
- **Serious Violence Profiler Tool** – Brownsover South LSOA, Lake District North LSOA and Newbold on Avon LSOA were areas with 'High' risk scores based on the findings of the profiler tool.

Analysis of non-domestic violence with injury showed the main areas as the Rugby Town Centre and Caldecott North West LSOAs, although the figures are relatively low compared to other town centre areas. Over the three year period there were a total of 100 offences in each location.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

Risk areas in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough are shown in the infographic below.

Figure 7 Risk Profile: Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough



The Warwickshire Serious Violence Needs Assessment has identified the following priorities for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough:

- **Domestic Abuse** – Police recorded rates of domestic violence incidents in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough were the highest in the county – 10.8 per 1,000 population for April 2020 to March 2023.
- **Non-domestic violence** – Nearly a third (30%) of non-domestic violence with injury offences in Warwickshire occurred in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.
- **Public place violence** – One of the main hotspots for public place violence in the county was in Nuneaton, in the Abbey town centre LSOA. This area had the highest number of offences in Warwickshire.

- **Knife related offences** – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough recorded the highest rates of reported Knife related Violence with Injury Offences per 1,000 population between April 2020 to March 2023, at 1.75 offences.

- **Hospital admissions for assaults** – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough has the highest rate for admissions for assaults (184 per 100,000 population).

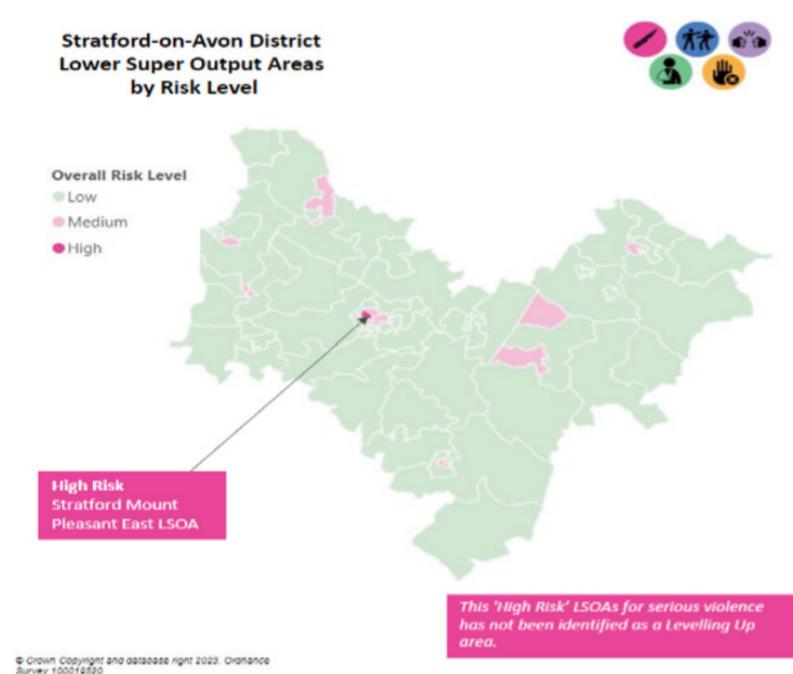
- **Children not in education, employment or training and children in care** – the rate of Children in Care is 36.8 per 1,000 children in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, a much higher rate than in all other Warwickshire districts and boroughs.

- **Serious Violence Profiler Tool** – there were two areas that recorded 'Very High' risk scores and 15 areas that recorded 'High' risk scores based on the profiler tool. The two 'Very High' risk areas were Kingswood Grove Farm and Rural LSOA and the Abbey Town Centre LSOA. It is important to note that 14 of the 17 areas align with the Levelling Up areas for the Borough.

Stratford-on-Avon District

Risk areas in Stratford-on-Avon District are shown in the infographic below.

Figure 10 Risk Profile: Stratford-on-Avon District



The Warwickshire Serious Violence Needs Assessment has identified the following priorities for Stratford-on-Avon District:

- **Rural domestic violence** – the rate of domestic violence offences is much lower in rural locations in Stratford-on-Avon District than in urban areas, suggesting less reporting of these offences.

- **Access to services such as alternative provision for education** - Stratford-on-Avon District had the highest number of children accessing alternative provision in March 2023. This equates to 75 children.

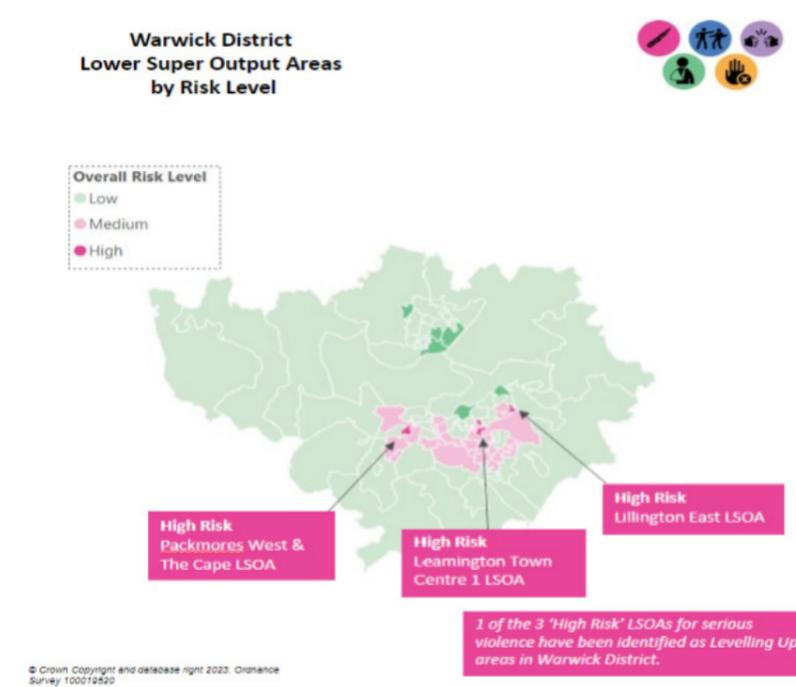
- **Findings from the Serious Violence local profiler tool** – the area of Stratford Mount Pleasant East LSOA has a 'High' risk score for serious violence.

Analysis of non-domestic violence with injury showed the main area reporting the highest number of offences as the Stratford Old Town LSOA and Town Centre South LSOA, although the figures are relatively low.

Warwick District

Risk areas in Warwick District are shown in the infographic below.

Figure 9 Risk Profile: Risk Profile: Warwick District



The Warwickshire Serious Violence Needs Assessment has identified the following priorities for Warwick District:

- **Public place violence** – particularly weapons related – focusing on Leamington Town Centre, which saw the second highest number of non-domestic violence with injury offences in the county.

- **Violence and homicide with links to county lines** – Leamington Spa was reported as being the most impacted area for county lines.

- **Educational attainment at GCSE (disadvantaged children)** - Warwick District has the largest percentage gap between those achieving a strong pass in Maths and English who are disadvantaged (24.0%) and those who are not (64.3%).

- **Serious Violence Profiler Tool** – Lillington East LSOA and Packmores West and The Cape LSOAs are the two areas which recorded 'High' risk scores based on the findings of the profiler tool.

Good practice case study – Rugby Youth Intervention Programme

Over the summer of 2022 Rugby Borough Council (RBC) saw a rise in youth ASB in the town centre and in parks and open spaces. Through the Community Safety Partnership there was a change in approach to dealing with youth ASB. This focused on direct intervention, identifying vulnerability and providing diversionary activity to individuals and groups of young people at risk of participating in or instigating ASB rather than focusing on punitive measures.

The youth intervention meeting refers young people to agencies for specialist support, including referrals to Compass (for young people who have drug issues); referrals to 'Ontrack' (part of RBC sports and recreation) for one-to-one support, or diversionary activities such as hair and beauty or art placements at local training centres. Referrals are made to Warwickshire Youth Justice Service for young people who are at risk of becoming being drawn into criminality, exploitation, or county lines. Other interventions are aimed at making young people or their parents responsible for their actions and provide support to steer them away from adverse behaviour.



Good Practice Case Study Warwick Community Impact Operations Group CIOG

Following two county lines related murders in 2020, the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership established a partnership to identify those most vulnerable to exploitation through county lines and also develop a range of local disruption tactics to prevent criminal networks establishing drug supply networks in local areas.

Since the group was established 309 individuals have been identified, many of which received positive partnership interventions.

One example of the success of the group relates to a vulnerable male who was being exploited by a County Lines network from Coventry. His flat was taken over by drug dealers, using a combination of violence and the promise of free drugs. Warwickshire Police made a number of arrests at the property and support services were able to engage with the victim, supporting him to access a 12 month rehabilitation placement out of area. As a result, this person has relocated and now volunteers at the hospital where he recovered.

Summary and Local Context

In light of the findings of the above local profiling, it is recommended that an in-depth consultation in the high-risk areas in each District and Borough should be undertaken. The consultation will aim to understand the local challenges and develop a strong community consensus on programmes that can prevent violence in the long term. Where possible, this should take place as part of the Warwickshire Levelling Up delivery programme.⁵



⁵<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/strategies-policies-legislation/levelling>

⁶<https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/>

What our communities told us

Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board and its partner agencies have undertaken extensive consultation on priorities of serious violence.

Key headlines are:-

□ As part of our focus on Domestic Abuse (DA), 108 residents from across all five Districts and Boroughs responded to an online survey undertaken as part of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in October 2021. Over two thirds (71%) of respondents had experienced, or were currently experiencing, domestic abuse, and 75% knew someone else experiencing domestic abuse.

□ Respondents provided information on their experience of domestic abuse, experience of accessing support and what they would want from a support service.

□ As part of our focus on the impact of drugs and substance misuse, in-depth interviews were conducted with 132 individuals with lived experience and 52 professional stakeholders as part of the Warwickshire Drugs Needs Assessment in September 2022.

□ A key priority that emerged was breaking drug supply chains through county lines.

□ Consultation undertaken by Child Friendly Warwickshire⁶ with 40 young people and 15 Members/Officers from Warwickshire County Council made a number of recommendations to improve confidence and feeling safe, including:-

- Young people want to see Police preventing crime rather than reacting to incidents.
- They would like to see more police on the streets and Safer Neighbourhood Team officers out in the community for reassurance.
- They would like to see Police officers going into schools to talk about county lines, knife crime and youth violence.

As part of our consultation with young people on serious violence, the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board undertook a series of in-depth focus groups during 2023 with 42 young people, aged 13-19 years, across the county.

Common themes highlighted by the young people which they recognise as challenges include:

- Use of drugs including cannabis and an attraction to dealing drugs.
- Gangs/drug nominals either relocating or being relocated into Warwickshire and educating young people in gang life and drug dealing.
- Use of parks for gathering.
- There is a belief that children are often treated as offenders rather than victims.
- A perception that agencies focus more on the criminal behaviour of young people rather than the perceived more serious criminal behaviour of adults.
- A perception of not receiving good enough careers advice, therefore having little understanding of what opportunities exist, leading to low aspirations.
- Inconsistent experiences with services and professionals.

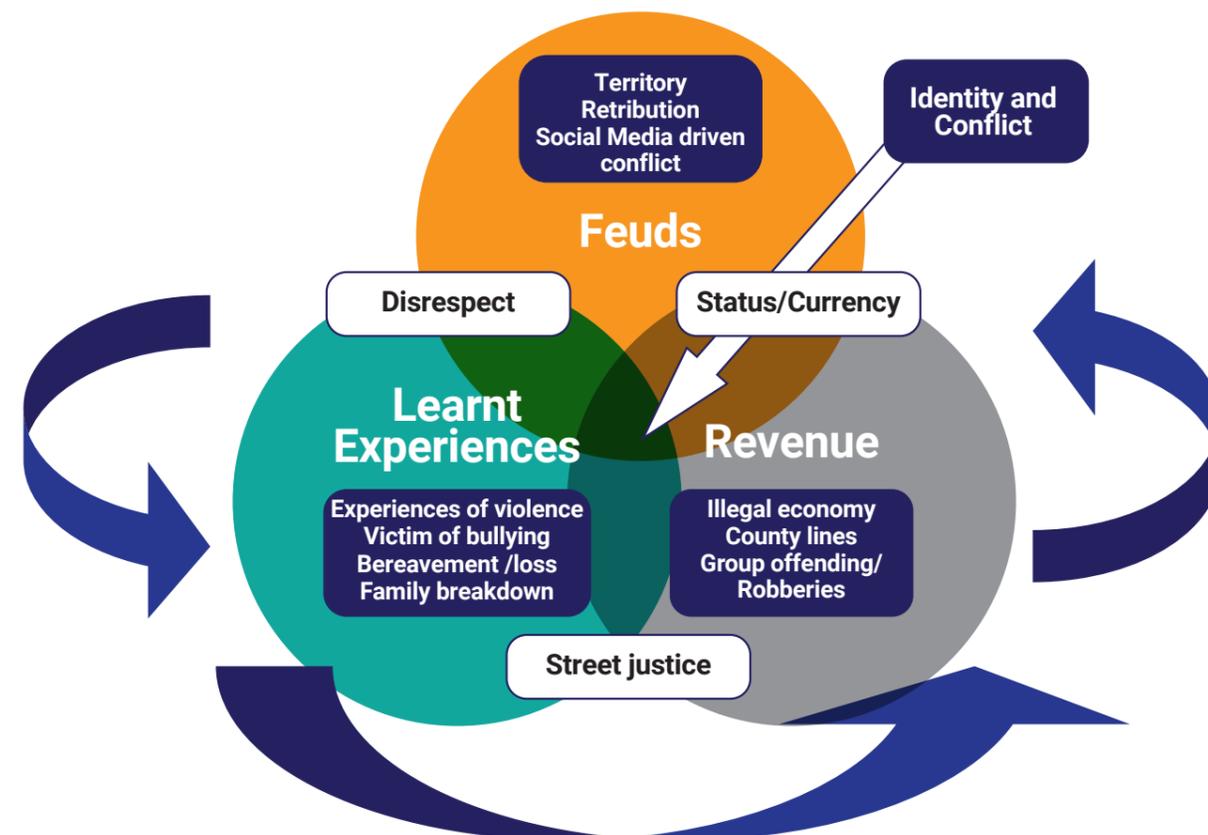
Analysis of serious violence incidents

As part of our in-depth analysis, we undertook a review of the most serious violence offences that were recorded as street based or in a public place. They included two homicides of Warwickshire residents, conflict between known groups in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and Leamington Spa, and a number of Wounding with Intent offences across the County.

There were a number of common factors that featured across the cases reviewed. These included connections to other criminal activity, or group on group conflict, as set out in the figures and diagram below. Threats and intimidation were often a feature in the build-up to the violent incident. However, there were two consistent themes:-

- In each of the cases there was a clear escalation of conflict. In several cases the conflict escalated and continued over months, resulting in a rise in the severity of violence.
- In every case, the conflict was between people who were known to each other. The incidents related to feuds or disrespect between individuals. Status within peer groups was a common reference in all of the group related serious violence incidents.

Figure 11 The dynamics of street based violence



Key Recommendations

- Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire Community Safety Team to co-produce a predictive analytical tool that can identify the early stages of escalating conflict in order that partner agencies can take action to intervene.
- Local Community Safety and Police leads to work with schools, local community and voluntary sector organisations to share information to identify potential violent conflict and prevent it from escalating.

Causal Factors

Alongside the crime data, we have taken the opportunity to look deeper into the underlying factors that create an environment where violent conflict can become established. These causal, or risk factors, fall under four headings:-

□ **Determining factors** – these are the experiences in early years that have a long term, physical, emotional, relationship or societal impact on the individual. For example, homelessness, neglect, parental substance misuse, experiences of violence or abuse. There is health research that strongly indicates that prenatal experiences can have a negative impact on the development of the child due to the stress experienced by the mother.⁷

□ **Impact factors** – these can be described as the experiences that impact on a person’s individual choices, consciously, or subconsciously. For example, alcohol or substance misuse within the family may impact on a child or young person through living in an unstable home environment, resulting in a lack of belonging. These experiences can also be seen as “triggers”. They may appear minor in isolation but trigger early years experiences and vulnerabilities that impact on their emotional, social and relationship development through adolescence and into adulthood.

□ **Escalation factors** – these are experiences that re-enforce the interpretation of self-worth, self-value, or a lack of belonging. For example, being temporarily excluded from school, reinforces the view that opportunities are limited in later life; being bullied or being a victim of crime re-enforces the sense of having a lack of belonging and the need for respect or status; or being involved in low level offending, increases risk taking behaviour and potentially, violent conflict.

□ **The intergenerational impact of Domestic Abuse** - We have included a section on the impact of Domestic Abuse including children witnessing domestic abuse as a key causal factor for Warwickshire.

⁷<https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/support/domestic-abuse-in-pregnancy/#:~:text=Domestic%20abuse%20during%20pregnancy%20puts,the%20development%20of%20the%20baby>
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/announcements/domestic-abuse-in-pregnancy-linked-to-structural-brain-changes-in-babies/#:~:text=A%20new%20study%20suggests%20psychological,can%20shape%20baby%20brain%20development.&text=Domestic%20abuse%20against%20women%20during,according%20to%20a%20new%20study>

Causal factors – Case Analysis

As part of the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategic Needs Assessment, a detailed case review was undertaken of individuals involved in the criminal justice system for violent offences – 14 anonymised cases from Warwickshire Probation Service and 20 cases from Warwickshire Youth Justice.

- ❑ Of the 34 cases reviewed, there was evidence in 18 cases of a history of domestic abuse. In 27 cases there was direct reference from experiences of family breakdown.
- ❑ In 21 cases there was a record of missing episodes in childhood with the most common age range of 14 to 16 years.
- ❑ In 50% of cases there was evidence of parental substance misuse. These experiences were from birth to 16, with the most common age range being 0-5 years old.
- ❑ In 21 cases the offender had been excluded from school with the youngest age being 9. The most common age range at the point of exclusion was 13-14 years old.
- ❑ Peer pressure, either from friends or family members was a consistent feature in the case studies. In 28 of the 34 cases reviewed peer pressure was referenced in the history of offending.
- ❑ In 14 cases there was a reference to bereavement in early years. The age range varied from 0-14 years old.

Understanding the importance of Influence and Transition

Based on the case reviews set out above, Figure 12 is a summation of the key casual factors and when they most commonly occur, from birth into adulthood.

The colour coding relates to the three factors as set out in the diagram.

It highlights the value of Warwickshire’s investment in Early Help and supporting families and aligns with the approach set out in the Director of Public Health’s 2023 Annual Report, “Breaking the Silence- Working together to prevent domestic abuse.

The diagram also identifies the key age ranges where the impact factors or triggers are most common. The age ranges of 3-5, 8-11 and 13-16 years are the most critical, where there are multiple impact factors. These age ranges also correspond with the key transition periods in a person’s life; the transition between pre-school and primary school, from primary to secondary school and importantly the emotional, physical and biological transitions through the adolescent years.

We know through neurological studies there is a further transition period, in early adulthood. For those individuals who have faced multiple determining and impact factors, the age range of 19-25 years is a critical time in processing the emotional effect of these experiences and where specialist, structured support, can play a key role.

Summary

It is clear from the Transition and Influence diagram that there is need to continue to focus on early help services across our partner agencies, through early years provision and front-line health agencies focused on the 0-5 age range.

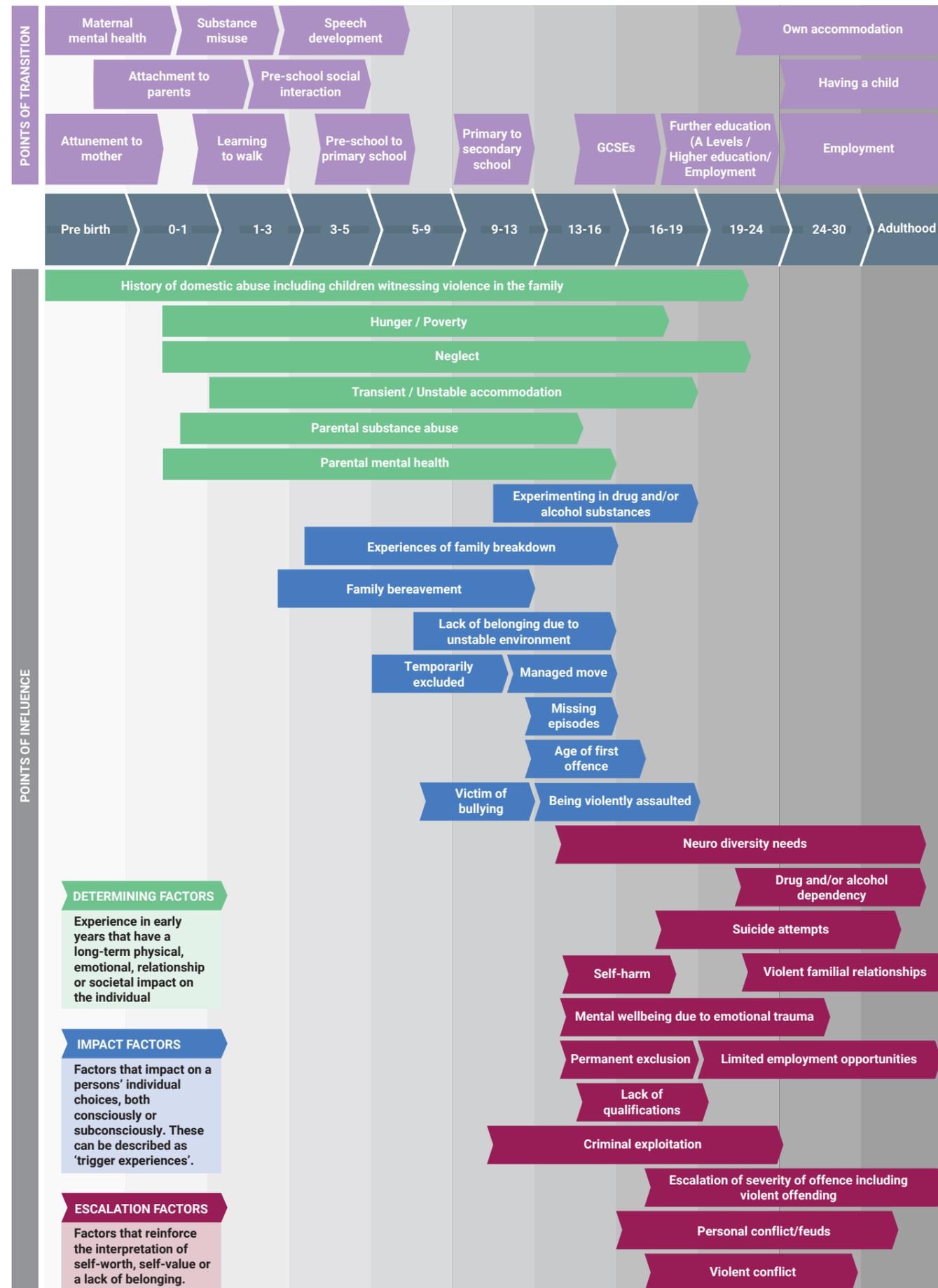
However, there is also a strong Warwickshire evidence base to develop a partnership approach to support the earlier identification of the impact factors, or triggers, particularly for 8-11 year olds and 13-16 year olds. These factors are key reachable moments at critical developmental age ranges.

Key Recommendations

Using the contextual safeguarding approach set out in Figure 12, schools, children and families services and criminal justice services should develop a common framework to identify and address these triggers and codesign interventions before they escalate.

All front-line agencies supporting children and families should be trained to recognise the triggers and where to refer to seek support. This training should include Trauma Informed Practice as a key foundation of a consistent partnership response.

Figure 12 Transition and Influence Diagram for Warwickshire



Good Practice Case Study – Warwickshire Identity Programme

The Warwickshire Identity Model has been designed to both assess and challenge young people on five dynamics which shape their identity. It can also be delivered to parents to help them in understanding how difference experiences can shape identity.

Importantly it has been designed at addressing the challenge of a "sense of a lack of belonging", which has been highlighted in our analysis.



The 5 dynamics are:-

- Moral** – Understanding the Moral Values they have and why they are important.
- Social** – Exploring how current social issues shape and influence them.
- Emotional** – Understanding what influences our emotions, recognising the importance of those influences and how to channel them in positive ways.
- Cognitive** – Reflecting on how their actions or perceptions impact on others creates the opportunity for changing their approach to confrontational or challenging situations
- Cultural** – Exploring their cultural journey and how their journey is different to that of their parents, siblings and peers.

The intergenerational impact of Domestic Abuse

We have included a dedicated section on Domestic Abuse including a focus on the impact of children witnessing domestic abuse as a key causal factor for serious violence in Warwickshire.

What the data tells us

- Over a third of recorded violence with injury offences were domestic related between partners, ex-partners and family members (4,698 offences).
- Over half of the total number of offences took place within the home (57%).
- 5% of all domestic violence with injury in the three year period (April 2020 to March 2023) involved a knife, which equates to over a third (244) of all knife related violence with injury offences.
- 72% of victims were female with the prominent age range being 26-35 years.
- 76% of suspects were male with the most prominent age range being 26-35 years followed by 36-45 years.
- 11 domestic homicide reviews were adopted in Warwickshire during the three-year period of April 2020 to March 2023 and over the last 12-month period, the number of reviews has nearly doubled.

Children as victims of Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 makes it clear that “children of domestic abuse victims who have seen, heard or experienced the effect of that abuse are victims in their own right”. The potential impact of domestic abuse can cause many problems such as withdrawn and detached behaviour, difficulty in school, substance abuse and ‘acting out’ violence and aggression they have witnessed themselves.

The key findings data in relation to children as victims is set out in the below bullet points. The word “linked” means that they may or may not have been present at the time of the offence but are a dependent of at least one of the parties involved.

- In the 3 year period from April 2020 to March 2023, there were a total of 13,447 children under 18 linked to a reported domestic abuse offence to Warwickshire Police.

- 12% of domestic abuse offences where children were recorded as being linked to the offence were violence with injury offences (1,803). In total 2,800 children were linked to the offence being responded to.
- One third (36.5%) of children were aged under 5 years (1,023) at the time of the first recorded violence with injury incident. The average age is just over 7 years old.
- Overall, two thirds of these children (1,862, 66.5%) were linked to at least one violence with injury and one other offence.
- 454 of these children (16.2%) were linked to more than one violence with injury offence within the time period.
- Research undertaken by Refuge⁸, one of the leading national charities for supporting women and children against domestic abuse, highlights that around 20% of women accessing their services are pregnant or have recently given birth.
- There was an average of 78 days per child between the first domestic abuse offence that was not violence with injury, and the first violence with injury offence. This suggests that there is an opportunity to intervene before the level of violence escalates.
- The age ranges of 0-3, 7-9, 11-13 appear to be more prevalent in relation to children being impacted by domestic violence with injury incidents.

⁸<https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-facts/>

It should be highlighted that the most prominent age range varied by each district and borough, as follows:-

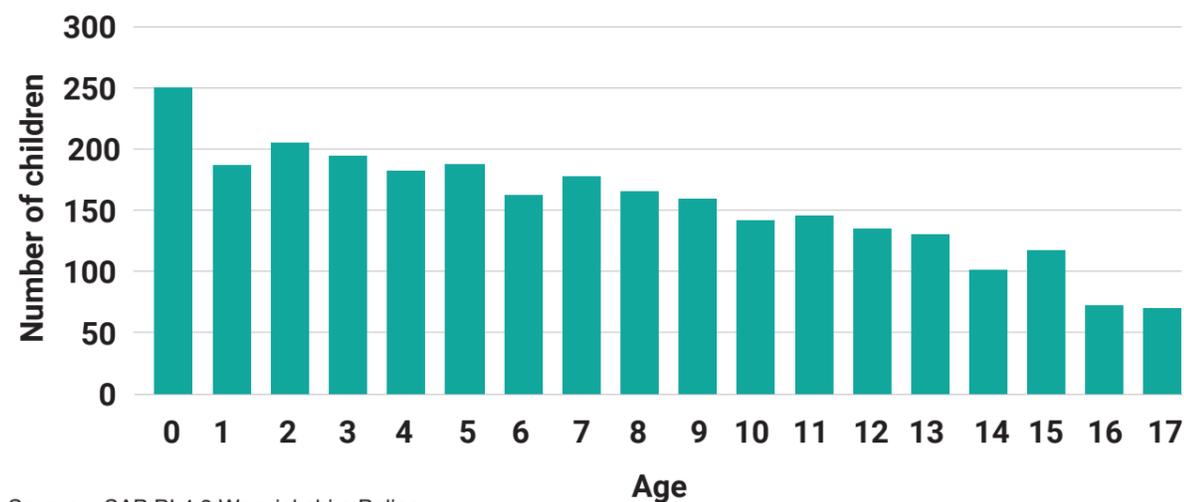
- North Warwickshire Borough – the peak recorded age range is 3 years of age.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough – nearly 12% of children were aged 0-1.

- Rugby Borough – the data indicates the peak age range being 7-9
- Warwick District – recorded the highest proportion of children who were linked to more than one violence with injury offence (18%). There is

a noticeable increase in incidents in the age range of 11-13 years.

- Stratford-on-Avon District – There was a noticeable downward trend from the age of 9 rather than from birth.

Figure 14 Age of child at first Violence with injury offence in Warwickshire, April 2020 to March 2023



Source: SAP BI 4.3 Warwickshire Police

Domestic Abuse as a causal factor for serious violence

It is well documented that the exposure to domestic abuse in early years through to adolescence is a key casual factor for emotional, social and relationship challenges in later life.

It is important to note that the relationship between witnessing abuse as a child and becoming a perpetrator or victim later in life is not always totally causal; protective factors such as trusted adult relationships can reduce the

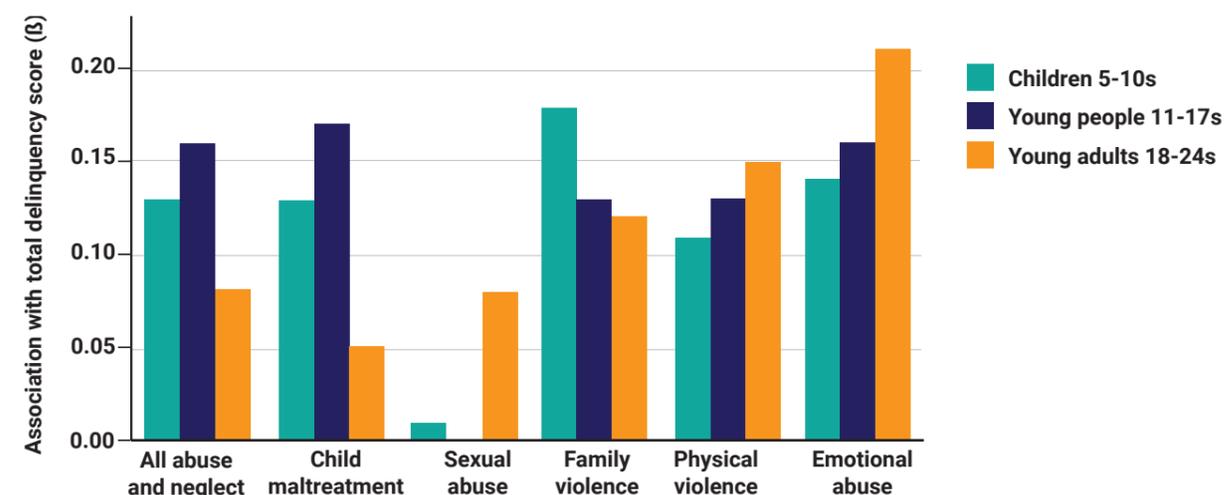
risk. Nevertheless, the risk exists, and we need to do more to identify the causes, so we are better equipped to provide early intervention. Failure to address the impact and trauma experienced by children who witness domestic abuse, can result in negative outcomes for children.

The report [Child abuse and neglect in the UK today \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) looked at this impact of exposure

to domestic and family abuse on delinquent behaviour, including “acts such as violence to others, skipping school, running away and taking drugs”.

The report highlights that across all age groups, exposure to physical violence, emotional abuse and witnessing domestic or family violence were associated with significantly higher levels of delinquent behaviour. This is highlighted in the following table.

Figure 15 Impact of aggregated lifetime maltreatment by parents or guardians on delinquent behaviour for each age group



Source: Child abuse and neglect in the UK today (nspcc.org.uk)

This corresponds with the findings of our qualitative case studies. In 13 of the 20 cases known to the Youth Justice Service in Warwickshire, experiences of domestic abuse and family breakdown were prevalent. Cases reviewed through the Probation Service highlighted that 43% had early years experiences of domestic abuse and of these, 50% had a history of abusive relationships with their partner(s).

Based on the qualitative research carried out in Warwickshire, it is evident that early exposure to family breakdown, domestic abuse, and connected adverse childhood experiences directly contributes to the normalisation of abusive relationships, long-term emotional and mental wellbeing challenges. This includes the ability of adolescence and young adults to recognise abusive behaviours in relationships.

As part of the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategic Needs Assessment a series of focused sessions

were carried out with young people on the edge of school exclusion or with behavioural challenges. Of the 42 cases, a quarter were female. All of the females referenced family breakdown and half made direct reference to experiences of domestic abuse.

Those young people who were interviewed referenced the impacts on their behaviour or attitudes as being, anger, self-harm, suicidal ideation and increased sexualised behaviour. In addition, there was a consistent reference to the impact on their ability to maintain healthy and safe relationships.



Key Recommendations

It is recommended that partner agencies across the health sector, children centres and early years provision, establish a task and finish group to recognise and agree the opportunities to identify children affected by domestic abuse and co-design interventions. This will be co-ordinated by Warwickshire County Council Early Help and Targeted Support.

It is recommended that the above task and finish group ensures there are clear, joined up, multi-agency pathways for children and young people witnessing domestic abuse, from the first recorded offence. In addition it is recommended that:-

- ❑ **All front-line agencies involved in early years emotional support are Trauma Informed Trained. This will better equip agencies to provide sufficient support and prevent other adverse experiences or “triggers” from further impacting on future wellbeing.**
- ❑ **To explore creating a forum to identify high risk cases where there is evidence that a child has witnessed violent incidents.**
- ❑ **Use the Safe and Well visits carried out by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue as an opportunity to identify risks of domestic abuse or other vulnerabilities in the home.**
- ❑ **Partner agencies involved in delivering the Serious Violence Duty to adhere to recommendations from the county Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and included in the Director of Public Health’s 2023 Annual Report, “Breaking the Silence- Working together to prevent domestic abuse**
- ❑ **To explore opportunities for Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse programme to support and intervene with families where children’s behaviour is escalating.**
- ❑ **Continue to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse, to enable them to understand the impact of their abuse.**
- ❑ **In line with our findings of causal factors of serious violence, partner agencies should focus resources on transition periods. A focus on transition periods for children to adult services should be a priority.**

Summary of findings from the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategic Needs Assessment

Warwickshire is a safe place to live, with relatively low levels of serious violence. However, the causal factors that can lead to violent conflict are just as prevalent in the County as in other areas of the Country.

The case study analysis identifies a series of impact factors or “triggers” which can lead to a sense of a lack of belonging and the potential escalation of risk-taking behaviour in childhood and adolescence. Developing interventions to address these triggers, at the times when they occur the most, provides the best opportunity to prevent this escalation.

Intergenerational domestic abuse, particularly where children witness domestic violence on multiple occasions, is a key contributing factor to violence and conflict. There is an opportunity for partnership agencies and educational providers to work together to better identify and support children who are impacted by domestic abuse.

Street based serious violence, particularly where weapons are used, is driven by personal conflict and feuds that have built up over time. There is an opportunity for partner agencies to use a wide range of intelligence, including social media intelligence to intervene and prevent conflict escalating.

There are specific local areas in the county which are at higher risk of being impacted by serious violence. Focusing on these areas is a priority all partner agencies.

Our multiagency approach to Serious Violence Prevention in Warwickshire

Our core principles – A Trauma Informed Approach to Preventing Serious Violence

Public Health England, in its publication, “A whole system multi-agency approach to violence prevention” sets out three levels of violence prevention, shown in Figure 16 below.

Figure 16 The three Pillars of Violence Prevention

Primary	Prevent Serious Violence before it happens	Developing a series of universal, targeted, and intensive interventions that prevent people becoming involved in county lines, group, or gang violence, carrying, or using a weapon, or becoming involved in social media that leads to violent conflict.
Secondary	Respond to emerging or immediate risks of serious violence	Co-ordinating a response led by criminal justice, safeguarding, education and community safety leads to reduce the immediate threat of county lines, personal conflict, or group violence and weapon related violence.
Tertiary	Long Term Support	Co-produce a series of interventions that offer routes out of violent conflict; strengthen communities to create an environment where serious violence is challenged; and collaborate with health colleagues to embed violence prevention at the core of the long-term approach to improve health and wellbeing.

Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862794/multi-agency_approach_to_serious_violence_prevention.pdf

In summary, these principles are at the foundations of our approach to preventing serious violence and the partnership model that we have developed

The Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Framework

The Warwickshire Serious Violence Framework is based on well researched Public Health approaches to violence reduction, combined with current safeguarding principles.

Our model is described in the following diagram and is based on:

- ▣ **The 5 C's approach**
 - Collaboration; co-production; co-operation in data intelligence and sharing; a counter narrative; and embedded in a community consensus approach are recognised by Public Health England as core elements to any violence prevention approach.
- ▣ **Transition and Influence factors** – Led by Public Health Wales, there is strong evidence of the association between childhood adversity and poorer physical and mental well-being across a person's life through childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood. As set out above, our deep dive case studies have looked in more detail on how these factors interrelate.

- ▣ **Understanding Risk and Protective factors**
 - Alongside causal factors, risk and protector factors enable agencies to recognise the risks in a person's life and the positive elements that can be built on. This approach acts as a counter narrative to the issues that a person affected by serious violence may present, building on the positive abilities, or relationships, that can keep them safe.
- ▣ **Contextual Safeguarding**
 - Looks beyond the individual and family dynamics by exploring their peer, school and wider community relationships. Each context is weighted for each individual, looking at the risks and protective characteristics.
- ▣ **Capricorn Framework** – developed by Public Health England, the Capricorn Framework recognises the opportunities for collaborative approaches by looking at the root causes that can prevent offending by children, as well as interventions that can reduce reoffending.

At the core of our Model is a Trauma Informed Approach to Serious Violence Prevention. Trauma-informed is a strengths-based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and response to, the impact of trauma. It emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for those affected by Serious Violence, and creates opportunities to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

The following two diagrams illustrate how we have combined these approaches to create our Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model. The first diagram (Figure 17) sets out the common risk factors identified through the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategic Needs Assessment and Qualitative case studies. It should be highlighted that our analysis has highlighted the “Lack of identity and belonging” as a key risk factor as well as the lack of a suitable place to live.

Figure 17 Warwickshire Serious Violence Contextual Safeguarding Risk Factors



Figure 18 Public Health Approaches to Violence Prevention



Figure 17 sets out the common risk factors identified through the Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and qualitative case studies. Figure 18 defines how we've combined all of the approaches and risk factors to create our Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model.

Partnership Commitments

- For all partner agencies involved in serious violence prevention to understand and adopt the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Framework.
- Partners agencies to create pathways of support that are available at the reachable moment for a person affected by violence, whenever that is.
- Safer Warwickshire Partnership Delivery Group to establish a community and voluntary sector network forum to support the delivery of the strategy, its recommendations and outcomes.

Setting out our long-term Strategic Approach

Warwickshire partners want this strategy to be different. We want to bring it to life so those that read it recognise the importance of a preventative approach and the role they can have in delivering it.

In order to do that we have taken a series of real-life case studies of people affected by serious violence and merged them into one life journey. Each chapter sets out a part of that journey from early years to adulthood. Each chapter uses the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Framework to identify the opportunities and what we will do to make a difference, collaboratively.

We fully recognise that a number of the challenges we face are both generational and societal. By basing them on a real life journey, we can start to see how we can affect change by defining the problem, identifying the causes, and delivering interventions at the right time with the maximum impact. This will allow us to scale up our successes, for the benefit of communities across Warwickshire.

Recommendation

Deliver an awareness raising training programme with key partners across health, criminal justice, police, educational providers, children and families and community organisations so they can recognise the crucial role they play in violence prevention.

The journey in the life of...

0-5 My early years

"My early years? To be honest you are the first people to ask me that.

It's a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. I've heard what people have said about my first few years. My mum was young when she had me, 17 I think, she had lots of issues, mostly drugs and alcohol. When she was up she was like really up, but there were lots of dark times, I remember them. My dad, well I can't say much about him. I had an older sister and my grandmother. I remember being safe with them.

What I do remember is being cold and hungry, I remember being frightened when we weren't

allowed in the house. I remember being frightened when my dad came round, the fights and the beatings. I remember being beaten when I wet the bed and I remember when the front door was smashed in by the police and crying when social workers came to take us away. I remember the times we were evicted, not all of them, but I remember my sister crying and being scared at night in the places we lived. They were never a home.

I cannot see these things clearly, but I still feel them, being cold, frightened and hungry, unwanted. I suppose that's why I did what I did to survive."

What we will do to make a difference

Countywide

Train all front-line family health providers to recognise Aversity and Trauma and Contextual Safeguarding.

Ensure that those residing in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation are supported with financial, practical, social and emotional support.

Commission an all-age drug and alcohol service that focuses on early intervention, prevention and appropriate treatment provision.

Engage front line health care support with other early years services to provide a co-ordinated programme of support for those families with significant determining factors (Figure 12) in key local areas as identified in the strategic needs assessment.

Local

Create locally based emotional support programmes for extended family carers.

Assess local community assets to ensure there are accessible facilities offering social, practical, and emotional support for young parents and carers

5-11 My primary years

"I remember my first day at school. Yeah, that was special. It felt like an escape. My sister took me cos she was a few years older and my mum was having one of her dark times. I tried real hard to make friends, I wanted to be someone people liked; that wanted to be my friend. It was important. Yeah I was physical, but not violent.

I did well in my first year. I loved art and I was told I was gifted. That was a big thing, I still remember it. It was in the second year when I started to get bullied. It was my clothes to start with, then people said I smelled. That hurt. After a while it got the better of me, so I started to deal with it, to fight back. I got

labelled, but I also got different friends, more loyal. Some of them are still my friends now. My Gran got called in, like every few weeks. Then I got suspended. I stopped doing art cos it didn't fit with the image I had....I wanted.

My Gran died when I was 9. I don't want to talk about that.

Mum had a new boyfriend and he was good for her. She started getting straight and we stopped having lots of different people in our house, night and day. Her boyfriend? I didn't like him and after a while my sister starting to stay out, stayed at friends, even though he would go searching for her. I missed her but she had her life and I couldn't protect her."

What we will do to make a difference

Countywide

Develop a training and awareness toolkit for all educational providers to recognise the signs associated with adverse experiences which can harden trauma and the impact of trauma.

Establish an advice and support service for schools and college staff to discuss emerging trends and issues.

Co-produce an assessment framework that can identify the impact factors or "triggers", to ensure that the opportunity to deliver early intervention programmes is recognised and responded to.

Define an accessible emotional support programme for young people and families affected by bereavement or loss.

Work with Street Doctors to introduce First Aid, Knife Awareness sessions for Year 6 and Year 7 groups.

Encourage referrals from all agencies for fire safety intervention where fire setting has been identified in children and young people between the ages of 4 and 18.

Collaboration between schools, children, families and health providers to ensure that emotional support for young people affected by trauma is accessible at the point of need.

Local

Ensure that practical support for families is easily accessible and does not create stigma.

Local intelligence sharing across early years and primary education, local authorities and children and family services so that practical and emotional support can be provided by local services.

Create local Serious Violence Prevention Community Forums, engaging with community and voluntary sector organisation to develop and deliver local intervention programmes.

11-16 Shaping my identity

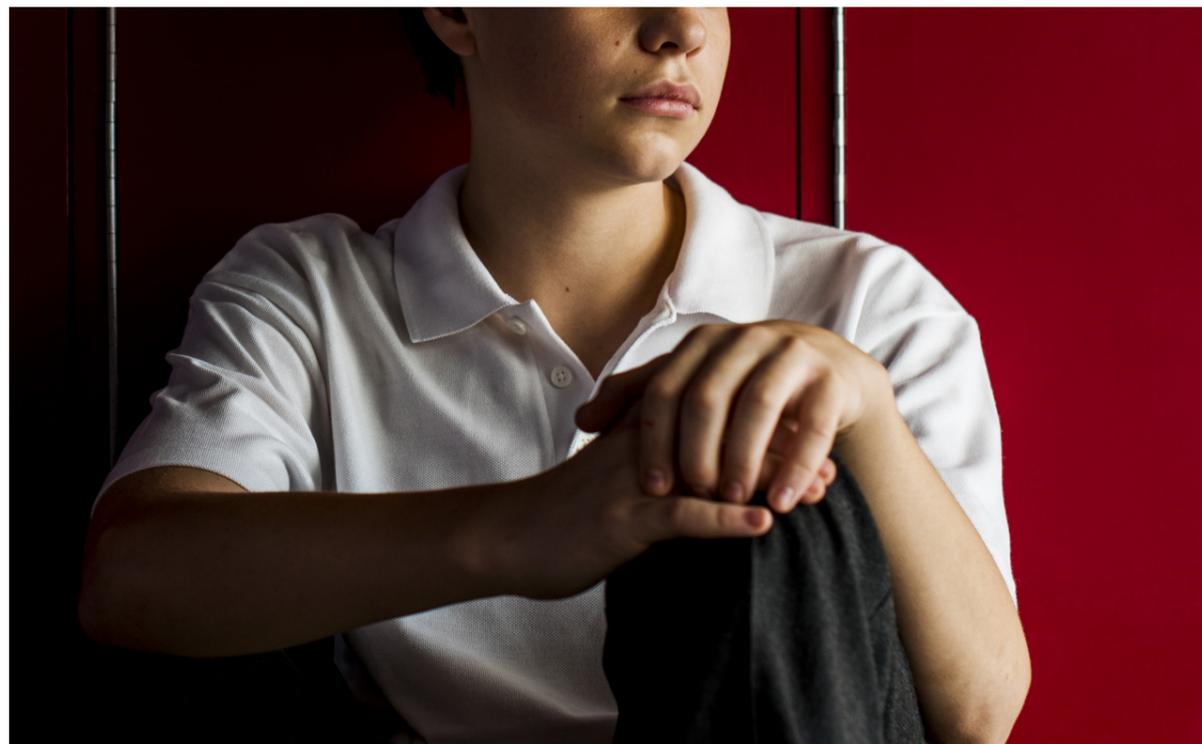
"My first year at secondary school was tough, bit of an initiation I suppose. I got bullied to start with, dirt rubbed into my face and mouth. Then I got robbed, school bag, money, my shoes. Mum got angry and reported them at first, to the school and the Police. Nothing changed. I wasn't the only one.

By the second year me and my friends started forming our own alliances with some of the older kids. They got me a bike and I did some work for them to pay them back, nothing heavy. We looked out for each other. Yeah, there were a group of us, boys and girls. That's one thing you lot have got wrong you know. You always focus on the boys when its often the girls that bring things on.

By 14 I had a rep. I did a few things I won't lie. But I was earning money and I was current. That's something else you lot need to understand; what it means to be current.

By the time I was 15 I had a plan. I stayed at school. I could of got expelled but I'm not stupid. I made sure school worked for me.

My mum? She had two other kids with her man. I was close to the oldest. He was 5 or 6 by the time I was in year 10. He looked up to me and I looked out for him. Then mum got cancer. Her man said I should take care of her, but I wasn't invested in her like that. My sister moved back in to help out. She was 18 then, had a kid on the way. But she moved back for mum. She told me what mum's boyfriend did to her. That's when things really turned. I got my friends over, even some of the olders, we dragged him out the house and beat him, in the middle of the street. Police got called. But no one said anything, not even my mum. What did I feel? An adrenaline rush, that's what's I felt. I got fixed on it, for the first time in my life I felt alive.



What we will do to make a difference

Countywide

Embed the Warwickshire Whole School Approach to Violence Prevention across all Secondary Schools in the County

Expand the Warwickshire "Identity Programme" for both parents and young people (Figure 13).

Review the commissioned provision of Mental Health and Emotional Support Services for children and young people to ensure it is accessible and responsive to those most at risk of becoming involved of serious violence.

Embed the Warwickshire Violence Prevention Model across agencies and expand the attendees at SOCJAG interventions to include schools and key health providers.

Review our social media and cyber educational programmes to ensure they focus on violence prevention and risks of exploitation.

Encourage all secondary schools to take up the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Arson awareness programme.

Local

Establish local forums between schools, children and families, police and community safety to share low level intelligence on incidents that could lead to an escalation in risk, including violence through social media.

Carry out a review of local community and voluntary provision that young people and parents with complex health needs can be signposted to.

Identify local community and voluntary sector providers that would run sessions within the school environment.

16-21 Becoming an adult?

To be honest, once I finished school things got mad. I got my GCSE's, including Maths and English. I got signed up for college. But, in reality, it was all about my friends, what we did on the road, the parties, earning money, staying current. Yeah, we smoked and took stuff. But we weren't like those nitties. We carried stuff, set up houses, carried phones, got paid for all sorts of work. Feds were all over us, but there we were a crew so they couldn't pin anything.

I first got stabbed when I was 16. I was dumb. Wrong place with the wrong people. But it helped my rep. I posted selfies of me in the hospital with the stiches in leg. Yeah I've been stabbed three times, but back then it's like I was invincible. When we got to about 18-19 some of my friends wanted out. There was a lot of beef over that. Some of the olders stepped in. One of my friends was called out. He got stabbed by others in our group. He was lucky to survive. That's when it all started to fall apart then. We didn't know who to trust. So we kept it tight, between 3 or 4 of us and started to recruit our own youngers.

Arrested? Yeah I got arrested lots of times. Most of them just go NFA'd. I had a number of people who worked with me, from social services I think or the youth offending team . Most of them were busy and they changed every few months. Some of them described me as being "exploited"! Like seriously, who do you think has exploited me? There was one worker, she was good but then when I got to over 18 that all stopped. Seems that being 18 changes you. By then I had left home. I was mainly sofa surfing and if I didn't have anywhere to stay I paid for a hostel. I learnt to drive, bought a car and some nights slept in that. When I was 20, I got arrested on the M1 with a kilo of coke and £5,000 in cash. I had a younger in the car, 14, 15 years old. He took the main rap. But I still got time.

Prison? Yeah prison was hard. Too much time locked in a cell. I wasn't ready for that. That's when I got into drugs, not like addicted, just to get through the days so I didn't have to think much.



What we will do to make a difference Countywide

Establish a Community Violence Prevention Navigators Programme that can be rolled out in local areas affected by serious violence.

Establish a Warwickshire based programme linked to NHS Trusts to support any young person, aged 14-25 years, who have suffered a serious violence injury. This will be part of the proposed Community Navigators approach.

Youth Justice Service and Warwickshire Probation Service to work together to co-produce an intensive support programmes for 17-24 year olds who are affected by serious violence and motivated to change. The programme will include practical, social and emotional support, including access to vocational and employment opportunities.

Establish a sustainable Countywide Serious Violence Exit programme based on the principles of the Boston Ceasefire Model (see Warwickshire Interventions Programmes Page 44).

Expand our Fair Chance employability and skills offer for young people affected by serious violence so that they are both work ready and successful in seeking employment opportunities.

Take the learning from the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service work with Warwickshire College and the Princes (Kings) Trust programme to deliver fire safety and arson awareness

Local

Establish a local employment opportunities scheme or employment placements for young people at risk of becoming involved in serious violence.

Identify local funding opportunities for training programmes for young adults.

Train community-based Violence Interrupters in key local areas affected by serious violence.

21 plus Moving on?

I did just over 2 years. By the time I came out my friends had moved on. Seems I wasn't current anymore. I got put into an AP, cos I refused to go home. I did some work, nothing heavy, just to earn some money. I got arrested few times, returned to prison and re-released. By the time I was 23-24 I had enough. So, I got some night work on the railways. It was alright until they did a random drugs test, then I was let go. I got my CSAS card through my Probation Worker. Respect to her. I'm back at college now training to be a painter/decorator and working for a construction company. Seems I'm quite good at it. My Probation Worker said she would get some counselling, but turns out I'm not eligible. I'm not bothered.

Did I mention I had a kid? Yeah, he's 5 now. That changed a lot. My sister has helped bring him up so I didn't lose touch. She's got her own place now, she's training to be a nurse. I'm also seeing someone, its good, we

argue but I don't know any relationship where there isn't some heat every now and then.

Mum? Her man left her just after she got sick. But she's clean, she's been clean for a few years. She works in a home supporting older people. She's doesn't get paid much but she's got a new man, whose got his own kids and he's good for her. I don't go round.

My younger brother? I still keep an eye out for him. He's between schools right now, but he needs to make his own choices.

I still see some of my friends, we meet up for a smoke. Most have moved on but those that haven't we still stay close to. You cannot just walk away you know! When you think about it, there a lot you cannot just walk away from.

What would I change in my life? I don't know, no one ever asked me that before. I don't know how to answer. What would you change?

What we will do to make a difference

Countywide

Use the Warwickshire Community Based Navigators Programme to train local people to become skilled mentors to provide long-term support.

Establish a countywide Business Entrepreneurs programme directly focused on young adults affected by serious violence.

Establish a dedicated support service to support employers who are willing to offer employment or volunteering opportunities for young people affected by violence.

Establish a Warwickshire Conflict Mediation Service with the aim of reducing the conflict between group or within groups to enable people to exit safely.

Embed the Caring Dads programme across the county.

Local

Work with local Business Improvement Districts and Growth Hubs to expand the employment and skills opportunities as a pathway for those looking to exit serious violence lifestyles.

Working with local colleges to review the vocational educational courses so they are accessible to young adult offenders.

How we will know that we have made a difference

Theory of Change

Lead practitioners across the Specified Authorities participated in a Theory of Change workshop, facilitated by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), to co-produce the Theory of Change model for serious violence prevention, which is described in the map set out in Figure 19 below.

The Theory of Change map describes:

- Impact – the big change that our work will contribute towards.
- Outcomes – the specific change that results from our activities.
- Activities – the things we do to achieve those outcomes.
- Assumptions – the things that need to be in place to make the theory work; necessary conditions.

Our Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) analysis has highlighted the significance for Warwickshire of identifying and addressing the causes of violence and of breaking the cycle of violence. The intergenerational impact of domestic abuse is recognised as a key challenge.

Activities and target groups

The Theory of Change highlights different types of activities and interventions for individuals, families, schools, peers, practitioners, communities, and wider society. These activities range from skills programmes, home visits, family therapy, specialised and structured one-to-one support, group interventions and employment schemes, and will target localities which will have the most impact.

Outcomes

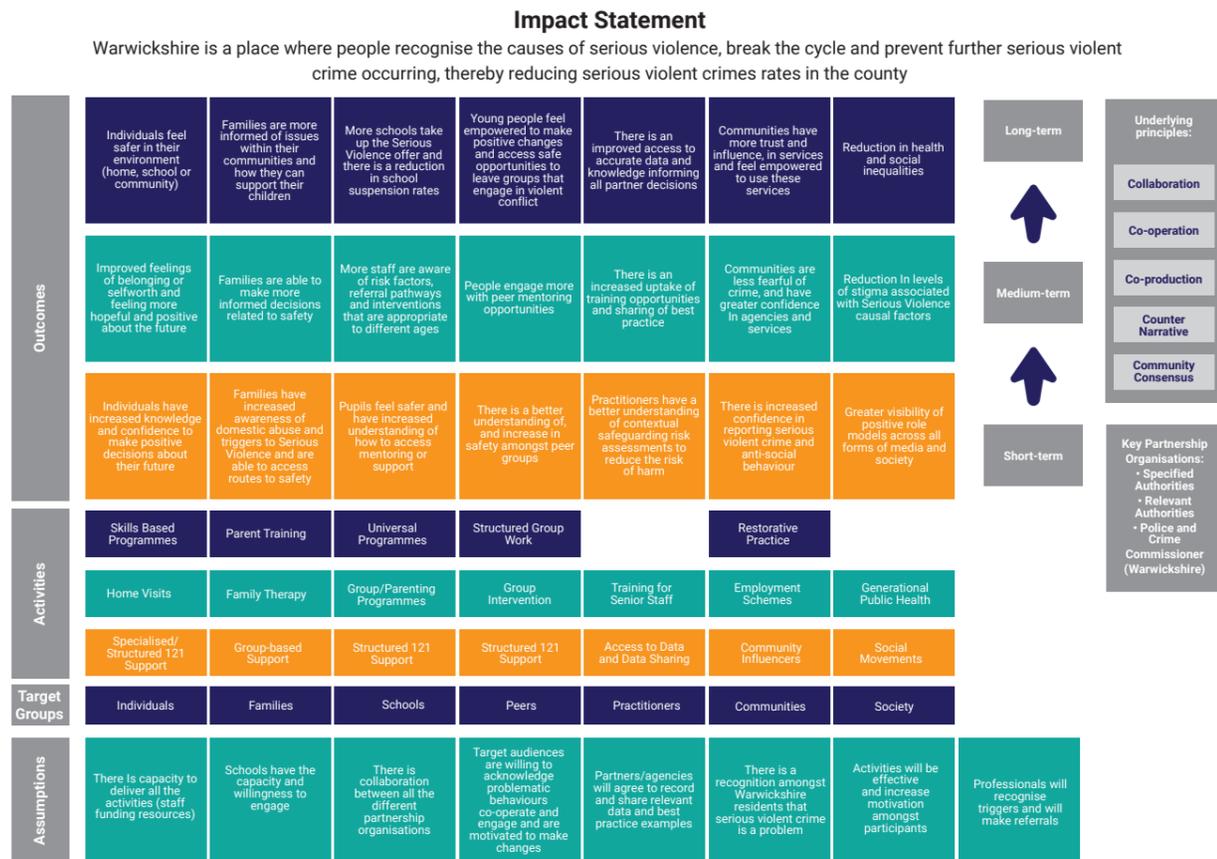
As a result of these activities, it is anticipated that communities and individuals will benefit in several ways. For example, through structured support and skills-based programmes, individuals will be more confident in accessing support to meet their needs and increase their stake in their community.

Similarly, there are range of highly knowledgeable practitioners involved in the delivery of activities in different settings, who have a range of different skills and expertise. The continued and increasing sharing of data and best practice amongst this group will further inform interventions and strategy.

Assumptions

Developing a consistent long-term approach, using the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model based on collaboration, co-operation, co-production, counter narrative and community consensus is key, and this is reflected in the assumptions described.

Figure 19 Warwickshire's Theory of Change Map



Overarching Outcomes

The outcomes for this strategy are set out in the above Theory of Change Model. They are based on a series of short term (12-18 months), medium term (within 3 years) and long-term ambitions, aimed at influencing wider social issues that impact local areas most affected by serious violence. These outcomes will be aligned with the Warwickshire Levelling Up approach to ensure these outcomes can be sustained.

Delivering our Outcomes Countywide

As part of the delivery of the outcomes set out within this strategy, we have developed a delivery action plan. The action plan includes the activities set out in the above Theory of Change.

The action plan will be overseen by the Serious Violence Partnership Delivery Group and will report to the Serious Organised Crime and Serious Violence Executive.

Locally

In addition, each of the local Community Safety Partnerships will develop a local action plan to focus on the serious violence priorities most relevant to their area. Whilst these will be managed locally, the Serious Violence Partnership Delivery Group will monitor progress as part of its overall responsibility of ensuring the outcomes are being achieved and the Serious Violence Duty is being met.

An annual report will be produced setting out the progress that has been made and the highlighting emerging challenges.

Partnership Commitments

The following is a summary of the partnership commitments set out above and which will form part of the overall delivery plan.

The table links these commitments to the three pillars of Preventing Violence before it happens, responding to immediate risk and long-term support

We have broken these recommendations into two headings.



Actionable - on track to be delivering in the next 18 months

Partnership Commitments	Related Theory of Change Outcomes	Relationship to the three Pillars
Each Community Safety Partnership to develop an action plan based on the Serious Violence Profile as part of their local strategic priorities.	Communities are less fearful of crime and have greater confidence in agencies and services.	Long Term Support
Undertake in-depth consultation in the high-risk areas in each District and Borough. Where possible this should take place as part of the Warwickshire Levelling Up delivery programme.	There is increased confidence in reporting serious violent crime and anti social behaviour.	Long Term Support
Local Community Safety and Police leads to work with schools, local community and voluntary sector organisations to share information to identify potential violent conflict and prevent it from escalating.	There is an improved access to analytical data and knowledge improving all partners. Individuals feel safer in their environment (home school or community).	Responding to Immediate Risk
Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire Community Safety Team to co-produce a predictive analytical tool that can identify the early stages of conflict before it escalates in order that partner agencies can take actions to intervene.	Practitioners on the front line have a better understanding of contextual safeguarding assessments to reduce the risk of harm.	Preventing violence before it happens
Establish a multi- agency Task and Finish group to identify children affected by domestic abuse and co-design interventions.	There is an improved access to analytical data and knowledge improving all partners.	Preventing violence before it happens
Use the Safe and Well visits carried out by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue as an opportunity to identify risks of domestic abuse or other vulnerabilities in the home.	Families are able to make more informed decisions related to safety.	Preventing violence before it happens
Partners agencies involved in delivering the Serious Violence Duty to adhere to recommendations from the Warwickshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.	Reduction in health and social inequalities.	Long term support

Partnership Commitments	Related Theory of Change Outcomes	Relationship to the three Pillars
Continue to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse, to enable them to understand the impact of the abuse.	Individuals have increased knowledge and confidence to make positive decisions about their future.	Long term support
Partners agencies to create pathways of support that are available at the reachable moment for a person affected by violence, whenever that is.	Improve feelings of belong or self-worth and feeling more hopeful and positive about the future.	Preventing violence before it happens
Deliver an awareness raising training programme with all partners so that they can recognise the crucial role they play in violence prevention.	There is an improved access to accurate data and knowledge, informing all partner's decisions.	Preventing violence before it happens
Train Early Help, Targeted Support and Youth Justice Prevention Teams on the Warwickshire "Identity Programme".	More staff are aware of risk factors, referral pathways and interventions that are appropriate to different ages.	Responding to immediate risk
Review current social media and cyber educational programmes to ensure they focus on violence prevention and risks of exploitation.	There is a better understanding of, and an increase in, safety amongst peer groups. Greater visibility of positive role models across all forms of media and society.	Preventing violence before it happens
Establish a Community Violence Prevention Navigators Programme that can be rolled out in local areas affected by serious violence.	People engage more with peer mentoring opportunities. Families are more informed of issues within their communities and how they can support their children.	Long term support
Youth Justice and Warwickshire Probation Service to work together to co-produce an intensive support programme for 17-24 year olds who are affected by serious violence.	Individuals have increased knowledge and confidence to make positive decisions about their future	Responding to immediate risk
Establish a sustainable Countywide Serious Violence Exit programme based on the principles of the Boston Ceasefire Model.	Young people feel empowered to make positive changes and access safe opportunities to leave groups that engage in violent conflict.	Responding to immediate risk

Partnership Commitments	Related Theory of Change Outcomes	Relationship to the three Pillars
Expand the existing Serious Violence Prevention Delivery Plan to include the outcomes set out in the Theory of Change and recommendations above.	There is an improved access to analytical data and knowledge improving all partners.	Long term support
Safer Warwickshire Partnership Delivery Group to establish a community and voluntary sector network forum to support the delivery of the strategy, its recommendations and outcomes.	Communities have more trust and influence in services and feel empowered to use these services There is an improved access to analytical data and knowledge improving all partners.	Long term support
Produce an Annual Report on the progress made in delivering the strategy and emerging trends.	Communities are less fearful of crime and have greater confidence in agencies and services.	Long term support



Aspirational - to be developed or delivered within the lifetime of the strategy

Partnership Commitments	Related Theory of Change Outcomes	Relationship to the three Pillars
Using the contextual safeguarding approach, children and families and criminal justice services should develop a common framework to identify and address causal impacts or triggers of serious violence and co-design interventions before they escalate.	Families have increased awareness of domestic abuse and triggers to serious violence and are able to access routes to safety	Preventing Violence before it happens
All front-line agencies involved in early years emotional support are Trauma Informed Trained.	There is an increased uptake of training opportunities and sharing of best practice.	Long term support
To explore creating a forum to identify high risk cases where there is evidence that a child has witnessed violent incidents.	Practitioners on the front line have a better understanding of contextual safeguarding assessments to reduce the risk of harm.	Respond to the immediate risk
Partner agencies should focus resources on periods of transition, to reduce the risk of violence in later life.	Reduction in health and social inequalities.	Preventing violence before it happens
For all partner agencies involved in serious violence prevention to understand and adopt the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Framework.	Practitioners on the front line have a better understanding of contextual safeguarding assessments to reduce the risk of harm.	Long term support
Embed the Warwickshire Whole School Approach to Violence Prevention across all Secondary Schools in the county.	More schools take up the serious violence offer and there is a reduction in school exclusion rates. Pupils feel safer and have increased understanding of how to access mentoring and support.	Long term support
Work with Commissioners to ensure Mental Health and Emotional Support Services for children and young people is responsive to those most at risk of becoming involved of serious violence.	Reduction in levels of stigma associated with serious violence causal factors.	Long term support

Warwickshire Interventions and Programmes

The following section sets out a series of partnership programmes that are designed to meet our recommendations and outcomes. We have aligned them with the three pillars of serious violence prevention.

<p>Preventing Violence Before it Happens Navigators Programme</p>	<p>Navigators are people from the community, voluntary or front-line services who have a connection to a local area. They work in settings to help develop opportunities for those involved in violent conflict to find routes away from this lifestyle.</p> <p>In Warwickshire, our intention is to develop a Community Navigators Programme as part of our Community Powered approach. Working in partnership with voluntary and community organisations, the aim is to train identified local people who either have lived experiences or are committed to making a difference in preventing violence, so they have the skills to navigate a pathway at key reachable moments for those affected by violence.</p>
<p>Preventing Violence Before it happens Multi agency criminal justice intervention teams</p>	<p>Warwickshire is bringing together skills from Youth Justice, Probation, targeted youth support, employment and skills and specialist mentors, to support those already engaged with the criminal justice system. The aim is to prevent them from either reoffending, or reduce their risks of an escalation in offending.</p> <p>Examples of this innovative approaches include:-</p> <p>Youth Justice Prevention Team – the team aims to work with young people who are identified as being at risk of becoming involved in offending. It offers a series of interventions to reduce those risks. The team lead on delivering the Warwickshire Serious Violence Whole Schools programme, described below.</p> <p>17-25 year old Transitions Service – combining the skills of Youth Justice workers, Probation officers, employment and skills and 121 mentoring, the service will work with those already in the youth justice system and transitioning to adult provision. It is designed to work with those clients who are motivated to change, offering intensive support, pre and post release, to prevent them from reoffending.</p>

<p>Responding to Immediate Risk – Warwickshire Family and Adolescence Support Team (FAST)</p>	<p>FAST is a multi-agency team made up of Social Workers, Family Support Workers, a Youth Worker, Homeless Prevention Worker, Children and Young People drug and alcohol Worker and Trauma Informed Practitioners. FAST are part of children’s services and are co-located with the Police, Barnardo’s and Youth Justice, and work within a contextual safeguarding framework.</p> <p>FAST works with children and young people aged 11+ years where the over-riding risk is harm outside of the home, or extra-familial harm.</p> <p>FAST practitioners are trained in solution focused brief therapy, which is a trauma informed model, motivational interviewing and mediation techniques. The team work with the child/ young person and their family to increase safety, utilising a range of disruption techniques and interventions.</p>
<p>Responding to Immediate Risk Boston Ceasefire Model</p>	<p>The Boston Ceasefire Model was originally designed to reduce gun violence in the US city of Boston. The Model was based on two strategic approaches: to co-ordinate enforcement agencies to maximise every opportunity to disrupt those involved in gun violence; to develop interventions that deter violence. The approach:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target gangs/groups directly involved in violence. 2. Reaches out to those involved, as a group or individuals, with an offer of help to move away from a lifestyle of violence. 3. Involve community leads to re-enforce the message that violence will not be tolerated. 4. Co-ordinate enforce against those who chose to continue with violent conflict. <p>In the UK, this approach was delivered by a series of “Call-In’s” involving partnership organisations, key community influencers and the voice of those affected by violence.</p> <p>In Warwickshire, we will embed the Boston Ceasefire Model as part of part of a sustained multi-faceted intervention programmes to address serious violence or organised criminality, including Clear Hold Build.</p>

Responding to Immediate Risk
Clear Hold Build

Clear Hold Build is a Police led initiative which has been developed in West Yorkshire. Through a series of police and partnership activities it aims to:

- tackle organised crime groups (OCGs) acting in the neighbourhood
- build community resilience
- improve confidence and trust in the police
- make the area a safer place to live

Clear - The police and partners use all powers and levers to impact to target those involved in organised crime, their networks, business interests, criminality, and spheres of influence.

Hold - involves consolidating and stabilising the initial phase to stop remaining or others capitalising on the vacuum created. The phase aims to improve community confidence by ensuring spaces remain safe.

Build – focuses on a multi-partnership approach to deliver community-empowered interventions that tackle drivers of crime, exploitation of vulnerabilities and hotspots of harm. The build phase should be planned from the beginning of the initiative.

The aim is to reduce the activity of organised crime and serious violence, improve community safety and confidence in the police.

Long Term Support
Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Whole Schools Approach

The Warwickshire Whole Schools approach works with the Senior Leadership Team of a school, College or Trust to design a structured programme that supports teachers, students and parents, based on the issues that the school is facing.

Led by the Warwickshire Youth Justice Service in collaboration with the Warwickshire Community Safety Team, the programme can be delivered through a universal offer, aimed at groups of students and parents who are affected by gangs, knife crime or county lines, or through bespoke one to one support. Where the opportunity allows, the programme directly involves local community organisations and businesses with the aim of developing local interventions, or pathways out.

Long Term Support
Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 has introduced Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews. The Reviews consider the circumstances of certain homicides where the victim was aged 18 or over and the events surrounding their death involved, or were likely to have involved, the use of an offensive weapon.

These reviews will focus on the involvement of key agencies and the lessons learnt that could prevent similar tragic deaths occurring.



How we will deliver the Strategy

The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board is the strategic board which sets the ambitions and priorities for the county to reduce crime and the fear of crime. However, as we have highlighted above, delivering a long-term approach to serious violence prevention requires collaboration across other strategic partnerships and the co-production of programmes.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a crucial strategic partnership. Our intention will be for these two boards to co-design our approach, maximising the resources available and, importantly, to use their influence across partner organisations to deliver the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model set out in this strategy.

In 2021 the Safer Warwickshire Partnership set out three long term strategic ambitions:-

- Addressing the causes of violence
- Safe, Healthy and Empowered Communities
- Tackling discrimination in all its forms

Preventing serious violence is a key priority for the Safer Warwickshire Partnership and this Strategy is critical in achieving these ambitions.

The following structure sets out our partnership approach.

- **Safer Warwickshire Serious Organised and Serious Violence Executive** – Sets the partnership priorities and delivery plan to ensure that the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model is delivered.
- **Serious Violence Delivery Group** – The multi-agency partnership body has responsibility to oversee the delivery of the strategy, performance and action plan.
- **Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Tactical Group** – Fortnightly partnership meetings to assess the most up to date threat and harm from county lines or group violence. The meeting reviews the impact of county lines operating across Warwickshire, those involved and the partnership disruption tactics.
- **Local Community Safety Partnership Violence Prevention Operational Groups** – Each of the 4 Community Safety Partnerships across the County have established local operational groups based on the local challenges related to serious violence. These vital operational groups use a Problem Solving approach to identify those most at risk of county lines or group conflict, develop a series of disruption tactics and develops locally based interventions, or routes out.

Figure 20 Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Delivery Structure



Where to get help and advice

If you would like further help or advice in preventing serious violence or you are concerned about someone becoming affected by violence you can find support through:-

County lines, gang or knife crime

You can get help and advice through:-

Safe in Warwickshire at <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/contact-us/>

Crimestoppers at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org> 0800 555 111 or

Fearless at <https://www.fearless.org/>

If you are concerned about a child or young person becoming involved in crime contact Warwickshire Youth Justice Service for an informal discussion on North 02476 482900 and South 01926 682650

Sexual Abuse and exploitation

If you want to report child abuse concern or would like advice in relation to child safety, please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrens-social-care> or call 01926 414144

Something's Not Right website provides helpful advice and support if you are concerned about exploitation <https://www.somethingsnotright.co.uk>

For support on sexual abuse you can find helpful advice and contact details at https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/images/downloads/ID10815_WCC_SAAS_Directory_For_Service_Users_V5.pdf

Domestic Abuse

If you or someone you know is experiencing Domestic Abuse or Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, ring or text 999. If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have any speech impairment, please dial Minicom/Textphone 18001

If you're worried a friend, family member, neighbour or colleague might be a domestic abuse victim you can report your concerns anonymously to Crimestoppers online here: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/personal-safety/domestic-abuse>

We know this can be daunting but the services below will support you every step of the way.



Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service - - If you are experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire, Refuge's domestic violence service can support you and your children to keep safe. Refuge is a county-wide service that provides support to women, men and children experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire.

T: **0800 408 1552**

W: <https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/refuge-warwickshire-domestic-violence-service/>



Rights of Women - Rights of Women aims to increase women's understanding of their legal rights and improve their access to justice enabling them to live free from violence and make informed, safe, choices about their own and their families' lives by offering a range of services including specialist telephone legal advice lines, legal information and training for professionals.

T: **020 7251 6577** (family law helpline – other numbers are available on the website)

W: <https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/>



Galop – Galop is a charity offering advice and support to LGBT+ people who have experienced violence or domestic abuse.

T: **0800 999 5428**

W: <http://www.galop.org.uk/>



ManKind – A confidential helpline is available for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence across the UK as well as their friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues and employers.

T: **01823 334 244**

W: <https://www.mankind.org.uk/>



RoSA - RoSA is an independent charity working throughout Warwickshire, offering free confidential support for anyone who has experienced rape, sexual abuse, or sexual violence.

T: **01788 551151**

W: <http://www.rosasupport.org>



Safeline - Safeline is a specialist charity providing a range of services across Warwickshire to support all survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

T: **01926 402498** (or text **07860 027573**)

W: <https://www.safeline.org.uk/>



The Blue Sky Centre

(Sexual Assault Referral Centre) –

The Blue Sky Centre is a SARC where any victim of rape or sexual assault will receive medical care, police intervention (if they wish to report the crime), and various other support services.

T: **01926 507805**

W: <https://blueskycentre.org.uk/>



Respect Phonenumber - Is your abusive behaviour costing you your relationship? Help is available.

T: **0808 802 4040**

W: <https://respectphonenumber.org.uk/>

A full range of support options are available at:

<https://www.talk2someone.org.uk/>

Or check out the Safe In warwickshire website at:

<https://safeinwarwickshire.com/support/>.

