

Official

# Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy Summary

2024 - 2030



**safe in...**  
warwickshire

# Why do we need a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy?

Violence has a devastating impact. It can tear families apart, divide friends, create fear in our schools and our communities. This fear can cause people to make poor or risky choices about how to keep themselves safe; carrying a knife to protect yourself, the groups in which young people associate so they are not victimised, or staying in a relationship for fear of what might happen if you leave.

Warwickshire is a safe place to live compared to the West Midlands and other areas across the country. But our families, schools

and communities are not immune to violence. This strategy highlights the impact of serious violence and the causes of violence.

Preventing serious violence is everyone's business. Our strategy sets out what partners 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.

## Our Vision

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**“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”**

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# The Serious Violence Duty

The government has introduced the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The act requires named organisations to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in a local area. The organisations are:-

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□ **Chief Officer of Police**

□ **Local Authorities in the defined local area.**

We defined the local areas as the county of Warwickshire which includes, Warwickshire

County Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council.

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□ **Fire and Rescue Authority,** including the Fire and Rescue Service

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□ **Integrated Care Boards** (for Warwickshire we have included NHS Trusts and Public Health)

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□ **Probation Service** and

□ **Youth Offending Services.**

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The act also encourages collaboration with schools, youth and adult prisons.



# What do we mean by Serious Violence

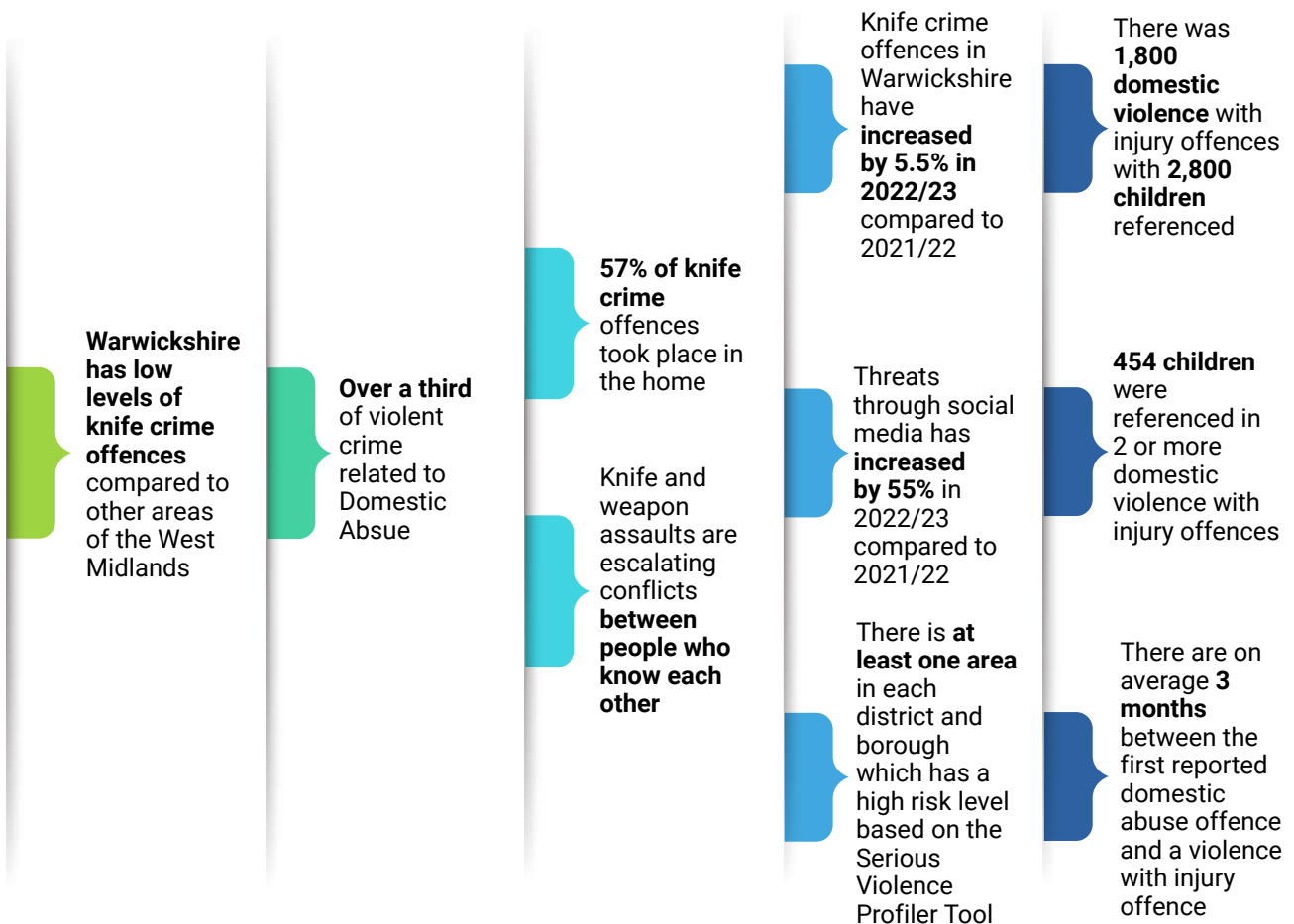
Figure 1 sets out the areas of serious violence that are covered in our strategy



**Figure 1** Types of serious violence covered the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Serious Violence Prevention Strategy

# Key headlines from our analysis

Partner agencies have worked together to collect data over the past three years (2020/21 – 2022/3) on each of the above types of violence. The key headlines are:-



# The causes of violence

We looked at a number of case studies of people involved in serious violence to understand if there were similar factors in their lives that affected involvement in violent conflict or criminality.

The common factors, that were identified, fall into three areas:-

- Factors from birth – these are experiences which take place from early years and are consistent through childhood and into early adulthood. We describe these as “determining factors”.**
- Impacts or Triggers – these are experiences that take place that can impact on both decision making and a sense of a lack of belonging.**
- Escalating factors - these are experiences that increase a lack of self-worth, self-value, or a lack of belonging. These experiences escalate and place the individual at a greater risk of harm.**

Our case reviews highlight that by recognising the trigger at reachable moments, partner agencies, including school, local community and voluntary sector services, can work together to prevent the risks escalating.

# Our Warwickshire Approach to Serious Violence Prevention

The below table sets out the three pillars at the heart of our approach to preventing serious violence. The partnership commitments and interventions that are set out in our strategy, have been developed to respond to these priorities.

<b>Prevent Serious Violence before it happens</b>	Developing a series of interventions that prevent people becoming involved in county lines, personal or group conflict, violence, carrying, or using a weapon, or becoming involved in social media that leads to violent conflict.
<b>Respond to emerging or immediate risks of serious violence</b>	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.
<b>Long Term Support</b>	Co-producing 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.



# Our Partnership Commitments

We want our strategy to make a difference to families and communities affected by serious violence. We are committed to working together and taking every opportunity to prevent violence and offer pathways out for individuals or groups involved in serious violent conflict when they are motivated to change.

There are interventions that we can deliver in the short term and there are programmes that will take longer but are important if we are to make the changes last a generation.

Our Partnership commitments and key interventions are set out below.

## To be delivered in the first 18 months (January 2024 - July 2025):

Preventing Violence Before it Happens	Responding to Immediate Risk	Long Term Support
<p><b>Children and families services and criminal justice services should develop a common framework to identify causal impacts/triggers and co-design preventative interventions.</b></p>	<p><b>Local Community Safety and Police leads to work with schools, local community and voluntary to share information to identify potential violent conflict and prevent it escalating.</b></p>	<p><b>Each Community Safety Partnership to develop an action plan based on the Serious Violence Profile as part of their local strategic priorities.</b></p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p><b>Train Early Help, Targeted Support and Youth Justice Prevention Teams on the Warwickshire “Identity Programme”.</b></p>	<p><b>Local partners to undertake in-depth consultation in the areas most affected by serious violence in each District and Borough.</b></p>



<p>Establish a multi-agency Task and Finish group to identify children affected by domestic abuse and co-design interventions.</p>	<p>Youth Justice Service 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.</p>	<p>Partner agencies involved in delivering the Serious Violence Duty to adhere to recommendations from the Warwickshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Establish a sustainable Countywide Serious Violence Exit programme based on the principles of the Boston Ceasefire Model.</p>	<p>Continue to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse, to enable them to understand the impact of the abuse.</p>
<p>Partner agencies to create pathways of support that are available at the “reachable moment” for a person affected by violence, whenever that is.</p>		<p>Local partners to undertake in-depth consultation in the areas most affected by serious violence in each District and Borough.</p>
<p>Deliver an awareness raising training programme with all partners so that they can recognise the crucial role they play in violence prevention.</p>		<p>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.</p>
<p>Review current social media and cyber educational programmes to ensure they focus on violence prevention and risks of exploitation.</p>		

# Our Partnership Commitments

To be delivered in the lifetime of the strategy

Preventing Violence Before it Happens	Responding to Immediate Risk	Long Term Support
Partner agencies should focus resources on periods of transition, to reduce the risk of violence in later life.	To explore creating a forum to identify high risk cases where there is evidence that a child has witnessed violent incidents.	All front-line agencies involved in early years emotional support are Trauma Informed Trained.
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.		For all partner agencies involved in serious violence prevention to understand and adopt the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Framework.
		Embed the Warwickshire Whole School Approach to Violence Prevention across all Secondary Schools in the county.

## Where can you get help

If you would like further help or advice, you can find more information on the Safe-in Warwickshire Website

<https://safeinwarwickshire.com>

**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/>.

