

## **APPENDIX 3 - STRATEGY TEMPLATE**

### **Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022**

#### **Serious Violence Duty**

#### **Strategy**

#### **London Borough of XXXXXXX**

##### **Foreword:**

Through a range of consultations and collaboration with partners, the template has been developed to support a consistent approach for the capital, through development of London Guidance, that builds on the national document. The template sets out the London perspective by the orange boxes of questions and information that guides partners on what to include in the documents.

Working collaboratively on this has already enabled joint modelling of the various requirements across partnership and seeing the benefits of this both in the development of the guidance but also in ongoing working together.

##### **Introduction**

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

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

The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.

The responsible authorities (also known as 'duty holders') in the Serious Violence Duty will be:

- the police
- fire and rescue authorities
- justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- local authorities

Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions will be under a separate duty to co-operate with duty holders, but they are not duty holders.

This strategy takes account of guidance issued by the government, as well as London guidance, developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit, in collaboration with London Councils, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police, NHS London and Probation Service.

The strategy sets out the agreed definition of Serious Violence for the borough, summarises the key aspects of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, the partnership arrangements that have been agreed locally to lead on delivery of the duty, the areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence, and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities - including young people, as well as businesses.

### **Definition of Serious Violence**

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism.

In considering serious violence within their area, specified authorities should encompass serious violence as defined for the purposes of the Government's Serious Violence Strategy and include a focus on issues such as public space youth violence. The Government's Serious Violence Strategy sets out specific types of crime of concern, including homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing. These crimes should be at the core of the serious violence duty for the purpose of its reduction and prevention.

Whilst the government guidance sets out types of violence that should be incorporated within the definition of serious violence, there is no definition provided and it allows each local area to define serious violence.

It is important that there is consistency across London, to ensure that analysis of violence and the Strategic Needs Assessment are comprehensive and comply with the duty. The London Violence Reduction Unit has therefore collaborated with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, London Councils, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London and Probation Service to develop London Guidance to support local areas in how they implement the duty.

***The London Guidance advises that Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in London, is defined as:***

***Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.***

***Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.***

Notes

**A**

Within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

- 1) This section defines “domestic abuse” for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if— (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are “personally connected” to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive. (3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following— (a) physical or sexual abuse; (b) violent or threatening behaviour; (c) controlling or coercive behaviour; (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4)); (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.
- (4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to — (a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or (b) obtain goods or services.
- (5) For the purposes of this Act, A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).
- (6) References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section. (7) For the meaning of “personally connected”,

It should be noted that in Chapter 3 of the Statutory Guidance of the act, it recognises that domestic abuse can encompass a range of behaviours, including abuse that is physical, violent or threatening behaviour, sexual abuse, controlling & coercive behaviour, harassment or stalking, economic abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse, technology-facilitated based, abuse relating to faith, ‘honour’-based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

**B**

With regards to ‘*violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25*,’ this encompasses those aged under 25 who are victims of offences; suspects/offenders for offences; or both. (aligned to home office Home Office “definition” of serious violence in their 2018 strategy)

**C**

Serious violence includes (but does not require) any of the defined offences where a knife, section one firearm or corrosive substance is used, threatened or intimidated.

The below boxes allow each local partnership to choose which option is being adopted. As stated within the London Guidance, there was a consensus that London would follow a consistent approach for the Duty to enable each local area to be confident that it has covered all aspects required within the local strategy as well as providing a minimum standard for the SNA.

Please choose 1) or 2) based on if you are adopting the London Guidance or not.

1. In the London Borough of **XXXX** we have agreed to adopt this definition of serious violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty.

Or

2. In the London Borough of **XXXX** we have decided not to adopt the London Guidance definition of Serious Violence because.....

Add rationale and mitigating factors to ensure that the local definition complies with the duty.

The local definition of serious violence is:

Add in local definition.....

## Local Partnership Arrangements

Within the Duty it is for the specified authorities to come together to decide on the appropriate lead and structure of collaboration for their area. The government guidance references the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP), or other partnerships such as the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, Criminal Justice boards or Health and Wellbeing boards. It also suggests it may also be the case that collaboration via several different partnership structures is preferred depending on the local context.

Of the statutory partnership arrangements, only the Community Safety Partnership has all the “duty holders” within its membership, and it is not restricted by the age criteria for children and adult safeguarding partnerships.

The London Guidance recommends that the Community Safety Partnership be the local partnership to lead on the borough’s implementation and compliance with the duty and the below box provides the option for each local area to decide on the lead partnership.

Please choose option 1) or 2)

1. In the London borough of **XXXX**, we confirm that we are following the London guidance and the Community Safety Partnership will be the lead partnership for implementation and ensuring compliance with the duty.
2. In the London borough of **XXXX**, we have decided not to follow the London guidance and have decided that the local partnership arrangements will be

Then either state which existing partnership board will lead and the rationale as to why or describe the new arrangement being introduced

Whichever option is chosen, please then set out the partnership meeting arrangements, including who chairs, who all the member organisations are represented by, how often the partnership board meets and link to any agenda’s minutes and Terms of Reference.

## Summary of the Strategic Needs Assessment of Violence

The strategic needs assessment is intended to enable partners to identify current and long-term issues relating to serious violence and those most vulnerable to involvement in the local area. This provides a greater understanding of established and emerging serious violence trends, priority locations or other high-risk issues.

The strategic needs assessment has been developed following an evidence-based analysis of data relating to violence, as well as broader datasets including those in relation to deprivation and health.

The strategic needs assessment has looked at the critical areas of violence and vulnerability within the definition of serious violence, including violence affecting those under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

In assessing each of the critical areas, the analysis has looked at locations that have a higher risk of violence and temporal factors, such as the times of greater and lesser offending, including the times of day, days of the week and seasonal trends through the year. The analysis has also looked at the profile of victims and offenders of violence, in order to understand the risks and opportunities for prevention.

The following is a summary of the strategic needs assessment.

- Then add in a summary from the SNA. This could be the executive summary from the SNA, if that has enough detail to cover all the points in the paragraph above and provides key findings and notes priorities areas for focus. I.E locations, times, victims and offenders broken down into the three key areas of under 25, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, which are likely to have profiles that differ quite considerably.
- The partnership does have the option to publish the SNA itself either in full or partly redacted, although there is no requirement to do so under the duty, however if the partnership wish to publish then it should be done via the Council's website.

## Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

Taking account of the Strategic Needs Assessment, the local partnership has agreed the following strategic objectives for the next 12 months to prevent and reduce serious violence:

### List objectives in relation to:

- Violence and vulnerability affecting young people under 25
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Offences

### Note:

Ideally there should be 4-8 objectives in total, linked to the Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan (VVAPs) which sets out the delivery. The VVAP template has been amended to include actions linked to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences. The partnership should strongly consider including:

- Early intervention and prevention,
- Those already known to the criminal justice system,
- Disproportionality
- Trust and confidence with statutory partners
- Hyper local focus and community engagement

The CSP could consider referencing other local strategies and provide relevant document links, e.g. any local DA strategy, serious youth violence strategy etc.

The partnership has agreed a range of activity to reduce the risks of violence and vulnerability, in support of the strategic objectives. These are set out within a Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan. This plan contains information for which disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The plan template contains seven different themes each with a set of mandatory actions as well as a menu of optional actions. The themes within the local plan are:

1. **Governance**- this provides an oversight of the leadership and governance of violence reduction locally, detailing the senior leadership structure as well as interoperability between Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Adults Safeguarding Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reduce violence
2. **Analysis and Enforcement**- understanding of how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally, including the Strategic Needs Assessment, monthly tasking meetings and using wider public health data
3. **Reducing Access to Weapons**- how partners are working jointly to minimise access including using Trading Standard initiatives and weapons sweeps
4. **Safeguarding and Educating Young people**- contains actions that include focussing on reducing exclusions, contextual safeguarding, support for children in care and care leavers, working with parents and carers and ensuring schools are safe and inclusive spaces
5. **Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence**- ensuring that local delivery works closely with communities to reduce violence including the Voluntary and Community Sector and in particular young people, who are most adversely affected by violence
6. **Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability**- ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are most vulnerable to being exploited
7. **Positive Diversion from Violence**- recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them before or to move away from criminality

As the serious violence definition includes domestic abuse and sexual violence, activity is also being undertaken in support of this through a range of actions, this has included modifying existing actions to encompass this (where relevant) as well as including a new section of actions listed below.

The definition of the Serious Violence Duty specifies domestic abuse and sexual offences. In London, we recognise that these are clear forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Mayor of London would encourage you to consider

the wider context of VAWG, specifically the associated behaviours and offences that contribute to violence such as crimes committed in the name of 'honour', forced marriage, harmful practices (e.g. female genital mutilation), prostitution and sexual harassment, wherever possible

The domestic abuse and sexual violence specific actions are:

- *To ensure strong referral pathways from statutory services into local and pan-London specialist support services, including 'by and for' provision for all victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences.*
- *To ensure all victims and perpetrators can access the support they need- including information on how they can access this support and where they can find more information. This might include the consideration of cross-borough reciprocal agreements.*
- *Co-ordinate an appropriate local awareness training offer for key professionals coming in to contact with survivors and/or perpetrators- such as health, education, social care and justice- which is refreshed annually.*
- *Local Authority departments such as children's social care, housing, adults social care and community safety, to ensure policies are in place regarding working with perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual offences when safeguarding children and the non-abusive parent.*

The following sections below are stated in the national guidance and therefore important they are included in London guidance to support partners to ensure they are conducted accordingly.

Each local strategy should set out how they plan to engage with the voluntary and community sector (VCS), businesses and communities and young people to support a holistic partnership approach, and how local funding streams are aligned to activity tackling violence. Reviewing the strategy and SNA will allow for the partnership to monitor progress and performance and ensure still aligned to priority areas.

### **Engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, young people and local business**

Local communities, the voluntary and community sector (VCS), local businesses and young people have an important role to play, in violence reduction. Our local violence and vulnerability action plan contain a range of activity that involves communities and neighbourhoods in reducing violence and the action within these should support the strategy.

In developing the local strategy to reduce serious violence, we have consulted with:

**Describe consultation processes and those consulted.**

**Provide a narrative that sets out how communities and the VCS will be involved in violence reduction locally..... for example this could include a young people's**

advisory board or action group, business forum, Local Safer Neighbourhood boards or could involve membership of the CSP or sub-groups. Describe how this will be part of an ongoing process over the next 12 months.

### **Identified funding streams or resources that can be used by the partnership for prevention and reduction activities**

This is for the local partnership to provide high level information on the resource's partners are investing in work to reduce serious violence.

This could be a summary of co-located resources each partner has provided to support violence and vulnerability reduction and/or core financial investment.

Please note that this is specific section set out in the Home Office guidance and so should be completed to demonstrate compliance with the duty.

<b>Name and source of fund</b>	<b>Amount per annum</b>	<b>Description of activity</b>	<b>Funding breakdown (if possible)</b>

### **Publishing of the Strategy**

The Strategy document will need to be published on the council's website by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

### **Date for review/annual review mechanism**

This Strategy document will be reviewed annually, with the next review due by **XXX**.

Progress of this strategy, the objectives set out within it and the local action plan, will be reviewed at least quarterly through the Community Safety Partnership or equivalent local partnership meeting.

### **Summary of Annual Assessment of Progress**

This section will be applicable 12 months after the local Strategy is produced and will provide a summary of the annual assessment of the partnership's performance against the previous years' strategy



