

Briefing Note

Title: Serious Violence Duty**Date: 27 April 2022****Prepared by: Hannah Pawley****Job Title: Community Safety Manager****Intended
Audience:**Internal ☒Partner organisation ☒Public ☐Confidential ☐

Purpose

To outline proposals for the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty in Wolverhampton and request endorsement from Health and Wellbeing Together.

Background

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill introduces a new Serious Violence Duty which will require responsible authorities to work together to address serious violence.

The Serious Violence Duty will require local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. Prisons, youth custody agencies and educational authorities may also need to work with these core partners.

Requirements of the Duty

The Duty encourages authorities to place an emphasis on early intervention with young people in order to prevent them from becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence in the first place.

Key elements of the Duty include:

- Identifying a partnership structure to oversee the approach to serious violence prevention;
- Understanding local issues and work together to establish the local strategic needs assessment;
- Preparation and implementation of a strategy to prevent and reduce violence in the locality.

Current Activity

There are already strong partnership responses to violence prevention in Wolverhampton driven by the Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy, delivery of which is overseen jointly by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST). This strategy sets out Wolverhampton's ambition to take a public health approach to addressing the causes of violence in their entirety to deliver change at population level. Delivery against this strategy has included activity such as a contextual safeguarding review and development of Wolverhampton's Partnership Exploitation Hub.

In addition to this, Wolverhampton's Interpersonal Violence Strategy (2019-2022) oversees the City's partnership response to domestic abuse. The Serious Violence Duty provides an opportunity to ensure that the Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy and Interpersonal Violence Strategy are closely aligned to ensure that there is a consistent and robust violence prevention offer within Wolverhampton which connects with the relevant partnership boards. It also provides an opportunity to widen the focus of the current Interpersonal Violence Strategy to extend activity to promote the safety of women in public spaces, including the night-time economy, building on existing work including the creation of Wolverhampton's 'Safe Haven'.

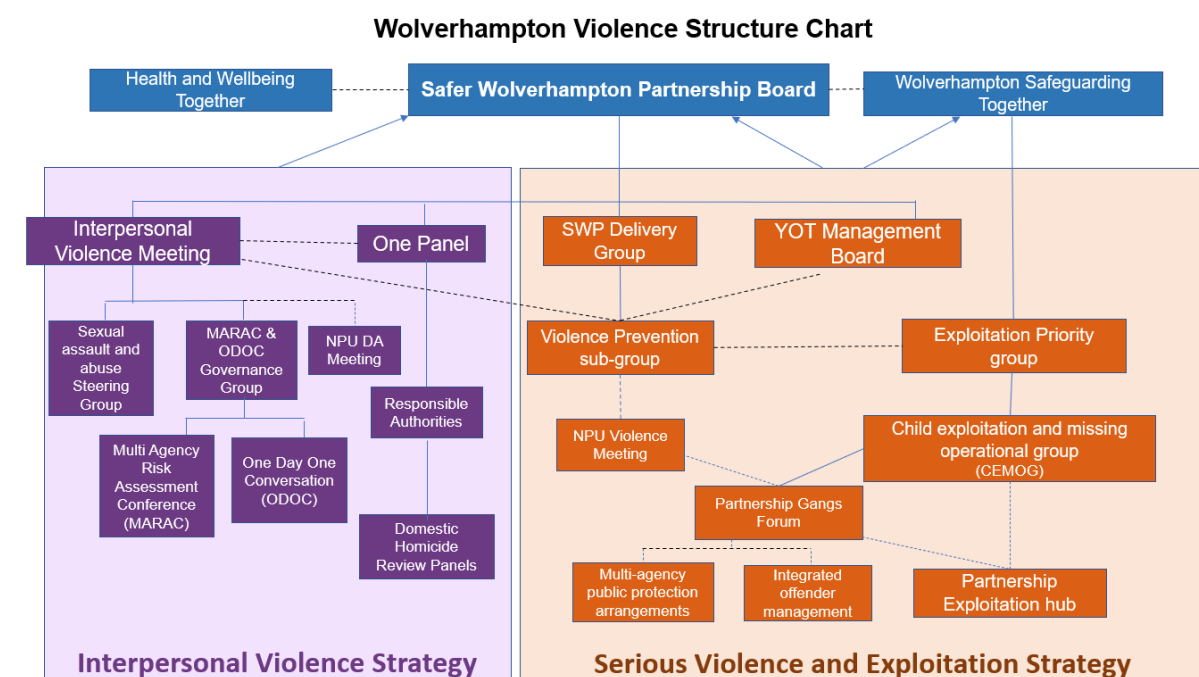
Local implementation

In order to build on existing successes, ensure that there is a robust violence prevention offer within Wolverhampton and ensure that Wolverhampton is compliant against the new Duty a new Violence Prevention Subgroup has been established to progress the below activity:

- Mapping of current violence prevention/support provision;
- Establishing a mechanism for monitoring, reviewing and implementing (where appropriate) best practice around violence prevention and reduction;
- Reviewing of area-specific data and services with a focus on prevention and early intervention;
- Overseeing production of a violence needs assessment and annually refreshed problem profile;
- Ensuring that the Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy is reflective of the needs assessment;
- Developing action plans and performance frameworks to monitor delivery of the strategy;
- Ensuring the subgroup reports into SWP and provide regular updates to WST and Youth Offending Team (YOT) Management Board.

The group reports into existing SWP structures and will also closely align with WST structures (particularly the exploitation priority group), Wolverhampton's Interpersonal Violence Board and YOT Management Board. Proposed structure and initial membership are outlined in Appendix 1. It is proposed that there is also regular feedback to Wolverhampton's Health and Wellbeing Board, Health and Wellbeing Together.

Proposed Structure and Membership



Membership

Proposed membership would include representation from the following organisations:

- Local Authority* (including public health, children's services, adult safeguarding, education, Youth Offending Team)
- West Midlands Police*
- Probation*
- West Midlands Fire Service*
- Clinical Commissioning Group*
- West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit
- Voluntary/community sector
- Royal Wolverhampton Trust

*Responsible authorities