



Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

29 January 2019

Report title	Draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022 Consultation	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Hazel Malcolm Public Health and Wellbeing	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Community Safety	
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Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

1. Scrutiny Panel is recommended to comment on the draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022 as part of the consultation process.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022.
- 1.2 To outline the development process for the strategy, including consultation timescales.
- 1.3 To request input from Scrutiny on the draft document and input into the consultation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The nature of offending behaviour is changing; there is more evident exploitation of adults/young people with county lines, some of which is linked to drugs, but not all linked to gangs. Whilst youth violence overall has fallen, there has been an increase in youth violence involving weapons; this is in line with the regional and national picture.
 - 2.2 The launch of the government's Serious Violence Strategy in April 2018 provides a helpful context for Wolverhampton's approach. Striking a balance between enforcement action, early intervention to tackle root causes of violence and a strengthened partnership response, the key themes of the strategy are:
 - Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs
 - Early intervention and prevention
 - Supporting communities and partnerships
 - Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response.
 - 2.3 Regionally, the evident growth in awareness around issues such as county lines, modern slavery and the associated grooming and exploitation by organised crime groups, whose operations span geographic boundaries has raised the profile of these issues. There is a need for a better coordinated response, so there is a clear willingness of key partners to work collaboratively both locally and regionally to tackle these issues and to share learning and best practice.
- ## **3.0 Overview of Draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022**
- 3.1 Wolverhampton's draft Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy 2019-2022 (Appendix A) reflects the national shift towards a public health approach to violence and tackling all forms of serious violence and exploitation in a holistic manner. Where previously the city had developed individual strategies for each strand of exploitation; this strategy robustly addresses all related issues together rather than individually.
 - 3.2 The strategy focuses on four key areas; child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and gangs and youth violence. These areas all have common themes, including prevalence of grooming and exploitation of vulnerable people. By analysing data trends, the strategy gives an overview of each issue, provides data about rates of reporting, outlines victim and perpetrator profiles and identifies areas of early focus for the city.

3.3 Strategy Outcomes

3.3.1 The strategy document outlines the following strategic outcomes:

- Reduction in young people becoming involved in violence, with a new emphasis on early intervention and prevention
- Integrated support pathways out of violence and exploitation
- Strengthened partnership working to reduce harm to families and communities
- Improved information flow and use between agencies and communities to target interventions and raise awareness
- Robust enforcement to tackle Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)
- Strengthened and supportive offender management
- Strengthened knowledge and understanding of professionals to better identify those at risk of serious violence and exploitation.

3.4 Building on the work of the city's joint working protocol, which sets out arrangements for coordinated planning and delivery across the city's strategic boards, (in place since 2014), joint governance of this strategy will be between Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and Wolverhampton Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards. This will strengthen the city's overall approach to preventing, identifying, and responding to issues of serious violence and exploitation.

3.5 The Strategy has been developed through multi-agency involvement in an initial stakeholder scoping session, where the overarching priority areas were agreed, Partners included;

<p style="text-align: center;">Voluntary Sector;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catch 22 Believe to Achieve NPV Football Development Community Reference Group Victim Support</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">City of Wolverhampton Council;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children's Social Care Commissioning Public Health Community Safety Vulnerable Young People Safeguarding Youth Offending Team</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Other Partners;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Talent Match Recovery Near You HeadStart Wolverhampton Homes Midland Heart Nacro</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Statutory Partners;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">West Midlands Police Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner</p>

A steering group was then arranged to develop detail of the strategy document. This group; includes representation from West Midlands Police, Youth Offending Team, Safeguarding, Adult and Children's Services and Community Safety., third sector partner organisations.

4.0 Consultation and Timescales

4.1 Consultation for the draft strategy will run for a twelve-week period to comply with Wolverhampton's compact agreement. You can see the full draft strategy in Appendix A. The full consultation can be found on Survey Monkey using this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TSWGSDC>

The consultation period is 17 December 2018 – 12 March 2019.

4.2 Following this consultation period, all feedback will be reviewed, and necessary revisions made before final approval by SWP Board. Endorsement of the strategy will be sought from Cabinet on 10 April 2019.

4.3 The following partners and agencies have been asked to comment on the strategy:

- Councillors: the strategy and consultation has been placed in Members area.
- Facilitated sessions with young people
- Youth Offending Team Management Board
- Circulated amongst voluntary sector and Communities of Interest via Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council
- Safer Wolverhampton Partnership partners
- Emailed directly to interested parties
- CWC intranet articles scheduled for w/c 7 January 2019
- Press release scheduled for w/c 7 January
- SWP & CWC social media followers
- SWP, CWC and Safeguarding Board websites

4.4 We are committed to engage as many people as possible during the development of the strategy and therefore continue to seek the suggestions of partners for further engagement methods.

5.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

5.1 Scrutiny members are asked to consider the following questions:

1. Do you feel that the draft strategy is easy to understand and has clear aims and objectives?
2. Do you agree that taking a more encompassing approach will aid the identification and prevention of young people who may become exploited and /or involved in violence?
3. Will the proposed early areas of focus address the outcomes?

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Interventions and preventative measures will be funded from money received from the successful Police and Crime Commissioner bid to the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund and the Community Safety annual grant allocation.
- 6.2 In addition to specialist commissioning, the mainstream resource commitments from partners will be used to support delivery of this strategy. [MI/17012018/K]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area; Section 17 places a duty on the Council to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the area. Implementation of the strategy contributes towards the Council's duties in this regard. [TS/16012019/R]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 A full equalities analysis is being completed as part of the strategy development; it is anticipated that the strategy will highlight and work to address any identified areas of disproportionality within these crime types.

9.0 Environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications within this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resource implications within this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications for the Council's property portfolio.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

- 12.1 There are no background papers.