



Title: Kent and Medway Serious Violence Duty Update

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Date: 8th November 2023

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 16th November 2023

Classification: Official

The paper outlines the progress towards the development of a strategic needs assessment for serious violence and the plans to develop a strategy to prevent violence from occurring. Partnership members are asked to note the contents of the paper.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (“the PCSC Act”) received Royal Assent in April 2022. Part 2 of the PCSC Act creates a requirement for specified authorities to collaborate and plan to reduce or prevent serious violence.
- 1.2 The partnership must collectively create and publish a strategic needs assessment and develop a strategy which should outline the multi-agency response that the partnership will take to address the drivers identified in the strategic needs assessment and work to prevent and reduce serious violence in the local area. The strategy should set out how the proposed actions will enhance and complement existing local arrangements responding to serious violence.
- 1.3 Specified authorities must agree a partnership board which will oversee the work to tackle serious violence and are encouraged to adopt a Public Health approach to preventing serious violence.
- 1.4 The specified authorities are Police, Youth Offending, Probation, Integrated Care Board, Fire and Rescue, District and County Councils.

2. Arrangements

- 2.1 The specified authorities have agreed to collaborate across Kent and Medway to collectively discharge their responsibilities and will do so through a Serious Violence Prevention (SVP) Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The exception is Gravesham Borough Council which will do so via the Gravesham Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.2 The Board includes the chairs of the Kent and Medway Youth Justice Boards, the Head of Probation, the Heads from Public Health in Kent and Medway, the Chief Nurse, an Assistant





Chief Constable and representatives from the District Councils and Community Safety Partnerships.

- 2.3 The following definition of serious violence has been adopted: *Specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, robbery and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent such as in domestic abuse, sexual offences, gangs, county lines and drug supply.*
- 2.4 The terms of reference for the SVP Board were agreed at the Board meeting in October 2023 and include a seat for the head of the Kent Community Safety Partnership along with representatives from the District and Borough Councils, some of whom have asked to be represented via their Community Safety Manager. Board attendees will be expected to link discussions at the SVP board with those taking place at other boards where violence prevention may form part of the agenda.

3. Serious Violence Duty priorities

- 3.1 The SVP Board is required to publish a Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence strategy by January 2024. The Board has asked the Violence Reduction Unit to lead the work.
- 3.2 The work to gather the data for strategic needs assessment will be completed by November 2023. The data is being shared by Police, Local Authorities, Probation, Health and other partners, and there is also consultation taking place with young people to hear their views on how violence affects them.
- 3.3 The specified partners within the Serious Violence Duty will be invited to contribute to surveys and workshops to explore the key priorities that they feel should form part of a strategy to prevent violence. The work will be carried out in November and December 2023.
- 3.4 The Serious Violence Board will meet on January 16th 2024 to discuss and agree the a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

4. Other priorities

- 4.1 The SVP board agreed a proposal to develop a multi-agency data sharing platform that will allow data sharing to be automated and which, if successful, will allow agencies to analyse data quickly and intuitively.
- 4.2 The SVP Board also agreed to be the responsible body that oversees the work of the Kent & Medway Violence Reduction Unit. The funding for the unit is in place until March 2025.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Partnership is asked to note the progress of the strategic needs assessment and to support the development of the serious violence prevention strategy.

