

# Serious Violence Duty

Project and Strategy Officer  
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# The Serious Violence Duty

- **What is the Serious Violence Duty?**
- 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 issues. Prisons, youth custody agencies and educational authorities will also be needed to work with the core partners.
- The objectives of the duty are to:
  - 1) Improve the current multi-agency approach involving partners and agencies such as education, health, justice, social services, housing, youth and victim services
  - 2) Increase the effectiveness of partnerships at preventing/tackling serious violence
  - 3) Share data, intelligence and knowledge to generate evidence-based analysis of the problem and potential solutions. The intended effect is two-fold: to increase effective collaboration across agencies and ultimately to reduce the number of serious violence offences

# Strategic Objective and Priorities

- Developed through the workshops and OPCC Policy and Commissioning Officer who has directly been working nationally with HMPPS on serious violence.
- Signed off as being the strategic priorities for our partnership until April 2025.
- **The Partnership vision**-*County Durham, and Darlington are safe places where individuals, families and communities thrive, making the most of the opportunities to live, learn and work free from the fear of violence*
- **Strategic Objective**
  - We will work together to prevent and reduce serious violent crime by adopting a public health approach.
- **Strategic Priorities**
  - Prevention and Early Intervention
    1. Support for those aged 18 and under involved or at risk of being drawn into Serious Violence.
    2. Reduce Alcohol-related violence in the Night-Time Economy.
  - Criminal Justice and Enforcement
    3. Support for those aged 18-35 already involved in Serious Violence, with a focus on males.
    4. Reduce Domestic Abuse related violence with a knife or sharp instrument (repeat DA perpetrators and victims).

# Strategic Needs Assessment

- Original SNA was worked on between October 2022 and completed April 2023 using data from 2021 – 2022. Some partner data proved difficult to obtain.
- Refresh commissioned in August 2023 using 2022-2023 data, received this refreshed SNA in February 2024.
- Next SNA will be a light touch refresh due in January 2025
- Full refresh of strategic needs assessment will be complete later in 2025
- Most data sets showed very similar findings to original SNA.
- The partnership published the high-level SNA findings, and the strategy end of January 2024. This is to be reviewed annually with the next review due January 2025.
- Engagement with affected groups and including lived experience voices-Public Survey to provide qualitative insights to the SNA.

# Progress So Far

## Timeline

### **January 2024**

Full strategy and strategic needs assessment published

Application screening began and Serious Violence screening panel sat

### **February 2024**

Successful applicants informed and delivery plan finalised

### **March 2024**

First allocation of funding granted and first interventions started

### **April 2024**

All interventions to start delivery, first operational groups set up and meetings start

### **May 2024**

Operational group membership arranged and groups begin developing work plans

Youth interventions begin evaluation process with Northumbria University

### **July 2024**

First returns sent to the Home Office and first quarterly reports received from interventions

### **October 2024**

Q2 reporting sent to the home office reporting on progress made

Youth intervention evaluation complete

### **November 2024**

Began conversations with the Home Office on future Serious Violence Duty policy

Started strategic needs assessment refresh

# Interventions

<b>Priority 1: Support for those aged between 18-35 engaged in serious Violence</b>	
<b>Probation Service – Trauma informed training</b>	£25,000
<b>Durham Constabulary – Civil Orders</b>	£25,000
<b>Priority 2: Reduce Domestic Abuse related violence with a knife or sharp instrument (repeat DA perpetrators and victims)</b>	
<b>Robiquity</b>	£49,725
<b>MARAC</b>	£35,200
<b>Priority 3: Alcohol Related Violence Within the Night Time Economy</b>	
<b>Durham County Council SWAN Hub</b>	£50,000
<b>Darlington County Council Number 40 Hub</b>	£37,398
<b>Priority 4: 18 and Under at Risk of/Engaged in Serious Violence</b>	
<b>Durham County Council Transition Coordinator</b>	£39,402
<b>Tees Esk and Wear Valley Trauma Informed Care Pathway</b>	£84,800 (to be split between 3 organisations – TEWV, County Durham Youth Justice Service, Darlington Young People’s Engagement & Justice Service – this is pending the appointment of a clinician by April 2024, otherwise the group reserve the right to reallocate funding)
<b>Foundation of Light – You Only Live Once, Diversionary Outreach</b>	£50,000
<b>Groundwork – Youth Project</b>	£47,608 (provisional dependant upon location to be delivered in – South Durham to be considered and to tie in with YOT)

# Operational Groups

- Four operational groups have been set up as of May/June 2024
- Each group sits under a priority identified within the SNA
- The groups are chaired by local partners and stakeholders engaged within the Serious Violence Duty
- Currently looking for each operational group to develop a delivery plan under the strategy in order to evidence progress made each quarter towards the serious violence strategy
- Mapping exercises complete now, next steps for these groups are to look at the strategic objectives under their priority and cross reference against mapping exercises and gaps analysis
- An example is the 18-35 group – gaps analysis identified that there is little support for the cohort of 18-35 males already engaged in serious violence as there is a lot of preventative work

One example of outcomes for this priority is:

*'To improve awareness of existing provision that is available to serious violence offenders, specifically provision led by voluntary-community sector organisations and including provision targeted to specific offence types.'*

We are meeting the objectives as we are asking voluntary organisations to come present at each operational group to raise awareness of what they are doing locally to offer support

# Next Steps

- Wait for funding announcement from Home Office – we are engaging with the policy staff to shape future serious violence policy
- Continue to monitor progress on interventions – we will be looking to evaluate progress made
- Work with partners to identify gaps in support
- Northumbria University Research – Youth interventions (scoping and needs analysis)
- Look ahead as a partnership to what comes next for our County Durham and Darlington Serious Violence Strategy



Questions?