

**Agenda Item No 10**

**Executive Board**

**20 June 2023**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**The Serious Violence Duty**

**1 Summary**

This report provides a summary of the requirements of the Council in meeting the Serious Violence duty and proposes suitable governance arrangements to meet these responsibilities.

**Recommendation to the Board**

- a That the Council agree to adopt the Serious Violence Strategy (Appendix 2);**
- b That the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Partnership Agreement to discharge the Duty (Appendix 1); and**
- c A commitment is given to participate and contribute to the development of the countywide delivery plan, develop the Local Delivery Plan, and contribute to the implementation of the Local Delivery Plan to reduce serious violence in North Warwickshire.**

**Recommendations to Council**

- d To adopt the Serious Violence Strategy, and to include it in the Council's Constitution in the list of Council Plans and Strategies; and**
- e To amend the Terms of Reference for the Safer Communities Sub Committee to include a specific reference to scrutiny of crime and disorder and serious violence duties.**

**2 Report**

2.1 On 31 January 2023 a new statutory duty on the Council came into effect – the Serious Violence Duty. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 places the new duty on 'specified authorities', including North Warwickshire Borough Council, to

- (1) conduct a Strategic Needs Assessment.
- (2) develop a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy; and
- (3) develop and implement a Serious Violence Delivery Plan for the local area.

- 2.2 The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to share information, target their interventions, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.
- 2.3 The Act also introduces Serious Violence Homicide Reviews, which requires specified authorities to conduct a review into the circumstances of certain homicides where the victim was aged 18 or over, and the events surrounding their death involved, or were likely to have involved the use of an offensive weapon. These reviews will be like safeguarding Serious Case Reviews or Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 2.4 Specified Authorities are:
- Local authorities – District/Borough and County Councils
  - Police - Chief Officers of police for police areas in England and Wales
  - Justice - Probation Services and Youth Offending Teams
  - Fire and rescue authorities - Operating in England and Wales
  - Health - Integrated Care Boards including Public Health
- 2.5 There is also a requirement that educational authorities (schools, colleges, independent educational establishments and approved premises) and secure estates (prisons and youth custody), must collaborate with specified authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. These are referred to as Relevant Authorities.
- 2.6 The Home Office has amended sections 5, 6, 17 and 19 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to require Community Safety Partnerships to prepare strategies to prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area and reducing instances of serious violence in that area.
- 2.7 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 has been amended so that local authority scrutiny of crime and disorder functions now includes the serious violence duty. There is therefore a recommendation to amend the delegation from this Board to the Safer Communities Sub Committee for that purpose, as follows (additional wording underlined):

**“ C. Powers Delegated to the Safer Communities Sub-Committee**

To implement the approved Crime and Disorder Strategy with specific obligation to discharge the serious violence duty, focussing in particular on drugs and alcohol issues, support to victims, reducing offending behaviour, partnership working and CCTV.

To Act as the Council’s Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

To make reports and recommendations to the Council on matters related to Crime and Disorder.”

- 2.8 Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Incidents of serious violence involving knives and other weapons has increased significantly, with regular media broadcasts of young people sustaining life changing injuries or death as a result.
- 2.9 The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.
- 2.10 In addition to tough law enforcement, there needs to be an understanding to address the factors that cause someone to commit violent crime in the first place, this includes where coercion is a factor regarding vulnerable children and adults, where they are groomed, exploited or cuckooed. The Duty aims to ensure that agencies are focussed on their own activity and multi-agency work to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area.
- 2.11 The legislation allows two or more specified authorities to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence in a "local area". This means that authorities are permitted to work across local government boundaries and in doing so, collaborate on strategies which cover areas greater than that which they primarily provide services in.
- 2.12 The Duty does not specify a 'lead' authority to be responsible for coordinating activity. However, there is a consensus across partner agencies, including District and Borough Council community safety officers, that the Warwickshire County Council will take the lead on behalf of all the specified authorities for the strategic and analytical work and responses to the Home Office on how the Duty is being met, with local CSPs, Districts and Boroughs, leading on local multi-agency delivery plans and interventions.
- 2.13 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has specific functions granted to them through the legislation, including a requirement to administer and distribute funding provided by the Home Office. The funding allocated to Warwickshire PCC is £575,214 over three years.
- 2.14 Warwickshire County Council will undertake the following on behalf of all the specified authorities to discharge the Duty:
- Undertake a countywide Strategic Needs Assessment but with deep dives into areas most affected by serious violence, or where the causal factors related to serious violence are evident.
  - Agreeing a joint Warwickshire Delivery Plan that provides all the specified authorities and Community Safety Partnerships with the evidence that they are meeting the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.
  - Funding a dedicated Countywide lead officer to support all the specific partners to meet the duty. This approach is like the Prevent Co-ordinator post already hosted by Warwickshire County Council.
  - Development and implementation of a 'Contextual Safeguarding Common

Assessment Framework' for serious violence interventions, delivered to all specified authorities and relevant authorities. Training programme for front line teams on the Duty, signs and symptoms of serious violence involvement, intervention options and clear referral pathways. This will include ensuring specified authorities have processes in place for data protection compliance, designated lead officers and referral pathways.

- Expansion of the current Whole Schools Violence Prevention programme, accessible by all secondary schools in the county.
- Develop bespoke interventions that improve pathways into support, such as access to mental health, employment or vocational attainment.

2.15 Local responses, based on the findings of the Strategic Needs Assessments, will be led by local partners through their Community Safety Partnership, with the support of the Warwickshire County Council lead officer as required. Home Office Serious Violence Duty funding will be allocated to each Community Safety Partnership to deliver local responses.

2.16 By adopting this approach relevant authorities, including North Warwickshire Borough Council, in meeting the Duty is reduced and North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership will receive funding to deliver tailored local responses, embedded through local community involvement, case management and governance structures.

2.17 The Home Office have commissioned Crest Advisory Group to work with the specified authorities on their readiness and to provide tailored support to local areas. The Home Office is convening a National Oversight Group (NOG) which will act as a crucial body, monitoring and scrutinising Duty activity.

2.18 To fulfil the Serious Violence Duty, the Home Office has set out a series of mandatory requirements for specified authorities to deliver against with clear time frames. A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken by officers to prepare for the Serious Violence Duty, as below:

Serious Violence Requirement	Current situation
<p><b>March 2023:</b> Specified authorities will need to provide an existing or produce a new Partnership Agreement (<b>Appendix 1</b>) to demonstrate that all the specified authorities under the legislation are included in the local delivery of the Duty, and that decision making is being shared between them.</p>	<p>A Partnership Agreement has been prepared (<b>Appendix 1</b>). The Agreement defines the 'local area' as Warwickshire. The Agreement sets out the governance arrangements at county and local CSP/District/Borough level.</p>
<p><b>30 April 2023:</b> Delivery Plan - The specified authorities will need to jointly agree the activity they will deliver under the Duty.</p>	<p>Commencement of a Warwickshire Partnership Delivery Plan is underway. Local CSP/District/Borough delivery plans are yet to be established and will be presented to the North Warwickshire Community Safety</p>

<b>Serious Violence Requirement</b>	<b>Current situation</b>
	Partnership.
<b>January 2024:</b> Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) - must be created jointly by all the specified authorities within a local area to formulate a robust, common understanding of the serious violence problem within that area. The SNA will need to be used to develop a definition of serious violence for the purpose of the Duty and inform the development of a local strategy to address findings.	The development of a Strategic Needs Assessment is underway.
<b>Serious Violence Requirement</b>	<b>Current situation</b>
<b>January 2024:</b> – Local Strategy - the local strategy will need to set out how actions being undertaken by the specified authorities will address findings of the SNA in alignment with the area’s local definition of serious violence. This is where the specified authorities can demonstrate that they are meeting the multi-agency elements, providing both short-term and long-term solutions.	The Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy has been developed and was approved by the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board in December 2022 ( <b>Appendix 2</b> ).

- 2.19 Interventions related to the delivering programmes or projects can prevent or reduce serious violence. The Home Office refers to this as Non-Labour costs. The amount allocated for 2023/4 is £83,506. In discussions across the Warwickshire partnership, the following is proposed that each of the 5 District and Boroughs will receive an equal amount of £10,000 for violence prevention programmes in 2023/4.
- 2.20 The Warwickshire Community Safety Team will actively support each CSP in the development of violence prevention programmes, from defining the problem to delivery and impact assessment. This will include supporting each CSP, in demonstrating how the programmes meet one of more of the three priorities as set out in the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy including:
- Preventing violence before it happens
  - Responding to immediate risk
  - Long term support or care
- 2.21 The remaining £33,000 will be used to support countywide programmes such as the Whole Schools Approach or increasing the countywide mentoring capacity. WCC are currently working in 8 secondary schools across the county but have a growing list of schools seeking support. There are currently 3 mentors. The £33,000 will not meet the total funding required. However the Warwickshire Community Safety team will use other monies to support this countywide provision for 2023/4.

2.22 A Serious Violence Prevention training programme will be rolled out in 2023/4 part funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2.23 Updates on the development of the local delivery plan, its implementation and impact will be reported to the Safer Communities Sub-committee.

### **3 Report Implications**

3.1 These are set out in the report.

The Contact Officers for this report are Julie Taylor (719437) and Steve Maxey (719438).

# PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN NAMED SPECIFIED AUTHORITIES

## WARWICKSHIRE SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

The following document sets out a partnership agreement between the Specified Authorities to meet the Serious Violence Duty as defined out in the Policing Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

The Serious Violence Duty requires Specified Authorities in a “local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area.

The Duty also requires the specified authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their strategy. These are referred to as Relevant Authorities

For the purpose of the Act, Specified Authorities are:-

- **Police** – Chief Officers of police for police areas in England and Wales
- **Justice** – Probation Services and Youth Offending Teams
- **Fire and rescue authorities** operating in England and Wales
- **Health** - Integrated Care Boards including Public Health
- **Local authorities** – District/Borough and County Councils

### Warwickshire definition of Serious Violence

The Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy 2022/27 set out the following definition of Serious Violence:-

*“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”*

Our definition includes coercive and/or controlling behaviour and financial abuse which are part of the underlying causes of violence, as set out in this Strategy. This ensures our approach aligns with other key strategies which address other forms of violence, such as Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls.

### The Local Government Area

The local government area for the purposes of this agreement is defined as the County of Warwickshire, including the 5 District and Borough areas.

## **Lead Authority**

Whilst the Duty does not specify a 'lead' authority to be responsible for coordinating activity, Warwickshire County Council Community Safety Team (CST) will carry out the following functions on behalf of all of the Specified Authorities within in the area of Warwickshire.

**Serious Violence Duty Delivery Plan** – the CST will engage a Serious Violence Prevention Co-ordinator to develop and oversee the Serious Violence Duty Delivery Plan, on behalf of all Specified Authorities and in consultation with Relevant Authorities.

**Strategic Needs Assessment** – the CST will engage analytical leads to undertake a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment using qualitative and quantitative data.

**Serious Violence Prevention Strategy** – Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board have already adopted a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy. The recommendations for the Strategic Needs Assessment will be reflected in the Strategy, in developing and adopting a Theory of Change which forms part of the Home Office requirements.

**Training and Awareness Programme** – the CST will lead on behalf of all Specified and Relevant Authorities in the development and delivery of training. The team will ensure there are sufficient trainers to deliver awareness sessions to front line practitioners as agreed by each Specified Authorities. In addition, a training programme for Single Points of Contact in lead services will be delivered, including a referral and assessment process.

**Lead Sponsor** – The Service Manager for Trading Standards and Community Safety for Warwickshire County Council will act as the Lead Sponsor on behalf of all of the Specified Authorities, reporting to relevant boards at District, Borough and partners agencies. They will lead in the response to the Home Office assessment process in relation to the Duty, ensuring there is an evidence of actions to meet the timeframe as set out by the Home Office.

**Whole School Approach** – The CST will ensure that there is a consistent offer to all educational settings to provide universal and targeted support as well as training of staff and parents under the current trends, signs, symptoms and referral processes.

**Specialist Mentoring Provision** – The CST will provide independent specialist mentoring provision on behalf of the Specified Authorities to support individuals and families involved in or affected by serious violence. This will include project that help deescalate group on group violence as required.

## **Local delivery**

In areas which are affected by serious violence, as highlighted in the Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, local partner



agencies will develop and co-ordinate the local response. The CST will support as required.

All local delivery programmes will be assessed on the three serious violence prevention pillars:-

<b>Prevent Serious Violence before it happens</b>	Developing a series of universal, targeted, and intensive interventions that prevent people becoming involved in county lines, group, or gang violence, carrying, or using a weapon, or becoming involved in social media that leads to violent conflict.
<b>Respond to emerging or immediate risks of serious violence</b>	Co-ordinate a response led by criminal justice, safeguarding, education and community safety leads to reduce the immediate threat of county lines, gang or group violence and weapon related violence.
<b>Long Term Support</b>	Strengthen communities to create an environment where serious violence is recognised and challenged; and collaborate with partner and communities to embed long-term violence prevention approach

### **Role of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner**

Local policing bodies, being Police and Crime Commissioners, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a police authority, are not specified authorities under the Duty.

However, they are strongly encouraged to take on a role as lead convener for the local partnership arrangements for the Duty in order to support the development and implementation of Serious Violence Duty and local strategy.

In line with the current arrangements the above specified authorities will co-operate with the Warwickshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner in the monitoring the named specified authority in exercising its functions under the Duty as set out in the Partnership Agreement.

### **Funding Provision**

The Home Office is providing funding over the period January 2023 – March 2025 for specified authorities in the local area to meet the above requirements. The funding is divided into two distinct cost areas

- **Labour Costs** - This includes the costs associated with preparing and developing the SNAs and local strategies. It includes familiarisation costs, training, meeting costs, analysis, and strategy development. The Home Office is flexible on how labour funding is spent provided that the specified authorities jointly agree on how it is used. This funding must be used to meet the specified authorities’ labour costs incurred under the Duty, this can include the cost of additional resource

in the local area to reduce the burden on the specified authorities, should they agree.

- **Non-Labour Costs** – This includes the costs associated with implementing the specified authorities' local strategy to reduce serious violence (the interventions). This can include the salary costs for delivering these interventions.

Home Office funding for Warwickshire is as follows:

- 2022/23      **£30,000** (Labour Costs only)
- 2023/24      **£263,506.30** (Labour:£180,000, Non-labour: £83,506.30)
- 2024/25      **£311,679.57** (Labour: £77,041.71, Non-labour: £234,637.86)

The projects as set out above will be funded as follows:-

- **Strategic Needs Assessment** – Labour Costs
- **Serious Violence Prevention Strategy** – Labour Costs
- **Training and Awareness Programme** – Labour Costs
- **Lead Sponsor** – No costs
- **Whole School Approach** – Non Labour Costs
- **Specialist Mentoring Provision** – Non Labour Costs.
- **Local delivery** – Non Labour Costs

## **Governance Structure**

### **Countywide**

#### **Strategic**

Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board will oversee the strategic direction of the Serious Violence Duty and the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

The Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group will act as the lead partnership body for the delivery of the Duty, the delivery plan, the Strategic Needs Assessment and the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy. The group will be amended to the Serious Violence Strategic Board.

The Lead Sponsor will liaise with the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board who are seen as a key body in terms of embedding violence prevention within the wider health agenda.

#### **Operational**

The existing Serious Organised Crime Tactical Group (SOC Tactical) will oversee the countywide operational activity related to serious violence. This will include emerging trends and performance which will help shape the Strategic Needs Assessment and the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

### **Locally**

**The local structure will be governed as follows:-**

**Strategic**

The four Community Safety Partnership Boards will oversee the local delivery of the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and ensure that the Strategic Needs Assessment fully reflects the local profile of each District and Borough area. The Project Sponsor will provide a quarterly update report to the of the boards on delivery plan, Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy.

The four Community Safety Partnership Boards are:-

- North Warwickshire RAG
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Safety Partnership Board
- Rugby Community Safety Partnership Board
- South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Board

The above Partnership Agreement is for the period 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Serious Violence Strategic Board.

**Operational**

Critical Incident Operational Groups (CIOG) will be established to align with the 3 area Police Command Structure, (North, East and South) A CIOG will be established in each area with responsibility for assessment of local serious violence incidents and emerging issues. This will be support by a partnership case management process.

**Review period**

The above agreement will be reviewed bi-annual through the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.

Signed by and on behalf of

Name

Position

Organisation

Signature

Date

# Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy

2022 - 2027



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# Why is the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy required?

# 1



Warwickshire is one of the safest places to live, work and visit in the country. Our cases of serious violence, particularly those involving a weapon, remain low for the region and nationally.

As a county we are not immune from the impacts of serious violence, be that as a result of Organised Criminality and County Lines, as a result of local Street Gangs, or linked to the Night-Time Economy.

Despite the considerable efforts of policing and community safety partners in Warwickshire, rates of Violence with Injury continue to increase in the county. There is also real concern about the rate of knife-related violence, as well as the number of individuals found by police to be carrying knives and other weapons.

And we cannot ignore the impact of Violence Against Women and Girls. Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence continue to be some of the most under-reported and most impactful crimes in Warwickshire. Yet despite being underreported, over a third of all Violence with Injury reports to Warwickshire Police relate to Domestic Violence.

The physical and psychological damage that Serious Violence can cause to individuals, families, our communities and wider society, is immeasurable. Even one death or life-changing injury in Warwickshire as a result of Serious Violence, is one too many. Together, we should have a collective ambition of zero incidents of Serious Violence in the county.

And preventing Serious Violence does require a collective and collaborative approach. No one agency alone can prevent Serious Violence. It is everyone's responsibility. Police action alone will not solve the societal problems that underpin the causes of Violent Crime. It requires a long-term, whole-system, multi-agency solution.

This means a combined, sustained effort by all key organisations. We need to make this effort, not only to protect our communities today, but to make a generational change that will protect the communities of tomorrow.

But if we want to prevent Serious Violence from occurring in the first place and make a difference over the long-term, we need to understand the causes of Serious Violence in Warwickshire; and what we can do individually, together, and with our communities, to remove those causes, and prevent the cycle of reoccurrence.

This will not be an easy task, but it is a most important one. It requires a step-change in approach from all of us. This strategy sets the framework and direction in which we can achieve this goal and will help bring about real and lasting change.



**Philip Seccombe**

Police and Crime  
Commissioner for  
Warwickshire

# Foreword

The Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy sets out a long term commitment by partner agencies to tackle the causes of violence, respond to emerging issues of violence to protect those most at risk, and develop long term support, recognising that the impact of violence on families, schools and the wider community impacts across generations.

The Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 sets out a Statutory Duty for partner agencies and educational establishments to work together to develop plans to reduce violence. However, as portfolio holder I want this strategy to be much more than a response to the Duty. I have seen first hand how serious violence can devastate families and have a long-lasting impact on local communities. If we are going to address the causes of violence, we have to fundamentally shift the conversation to what can we do to prevent violence, challenging the very concept that violence has any place in our society.

This is ambitious. Our strategy is ambitious. We should be ambitious because we already know that experience of violence restricts choice, limits opportunity and creates the very environment for those who intimidate, coerce, threaten and inflict violence to act with impunity.

I hope that in reading this strategy you will recognise steps that you, your school, organisation or community can take that can help prevent violence. Importantly, you will not be alone. We have provided links where you can get help and advice. I hope you will join us on our journey and in our determination.



**Cllr Andy Crump**

Portfolio Holder –  
Fire and Rescue and  
Community Safety & Chair  
of the Safer Warwickshire  
Partnership Board



# Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy

A long-term approach partnership approach to address the causes of violence

## Who should read this strategy?

This strategy has been written so that it is accessible to any individual, agency, business, organisation or community group who wants to:-

- Understand the causes of serious violence

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- Understand the roles that key agencies can have to prevent violence recurring

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- Use their skills and experience to make a difference to tackle serious violence and create opportunities for those affected by it to make positive life choices.

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It is fully recognised that no one agency alone can prevent 'Serious Violence'. Our strategy highlights the importance of a combined, sustained effort on behaviour of key organisations, built on strong community foundations. Only by adopting an approach whereby, will we make the fundamental differences that are required for current and future generations impacted by serious violence.



**“preventing serious violence is everyone’s responsibility”,**

## Why do we need a long-term violence prevention approach?

Prevention is at the core to any successful violence reduction approach. It requires a long-term commitment by a range of agencies, individuals and communities to prevent the physical and psychological damage that violence can cause for individuals, families, our communities and wider society.

By adopting a long-term approach, predicated on public health and community safety outcomes and as set out in our Warwickshire Violence Prevention Model below, we stand a greater chance to deliver and support families and young people to prevent violence now and for future generations.



## What Does our Data tell us?

Warwickshire is one of the safest places to live in the country. Our cases of serious violence involving a weapon remain low within the West Midlands region and compared nationally. However, there are

underlying risk and causal factors which highlight challenges for the county. The following section sets out the data analysis and how those underlying factors are impacting across the county.

# Warwickshire compared to National and Regional Trends

## County Lines

County lines is defined as the movement of drugs from one area to another for financial gain. County lines often involves the exploitation of people through courtering drugs from one area to another, by involving people in the operating of the local market, exploiting vulnerable people and taking over their home, or coercing or controlling people so that they are forced into a criminal or violent lifestyle.

It has been estimated that there are around 2,500 county lines operating across England. The majority of

county lines originate from large metropolitan areas, with those orchestrating lines running routes in multiple areas. The county lines profile has changed over the past 5 years. As county lines become established, local bases are set up whereby by key individuals are moved into an area and local people are actively recruited. These newly established bases are used to expand the county line network, so that local towns and villages become affected.

In Warwickshire, there are usually around 12-15 known

county lines operating at any one time. The vast majority of these county lines come from Coventry, Birmingham and the West Midlands region. However there are county lines from other Metropolitan areas operating in Warwickshire, such as London and Manchester.. Warwickshire Police work closely with the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit to disrupt county lines activity and, since 2020, a series of successful police operations has contained the number of lines.

## Domestic Abuse

Warwickshire's Domestic Abuse Service supported 806 victims-survivors. 30 - 40% of victims experienced domestic abuse (DA) multiple times and around 1,600 children and young people were impacted. DA has a lasting impact on physical and mental health, as well as resulting in financial and housing insecurity.

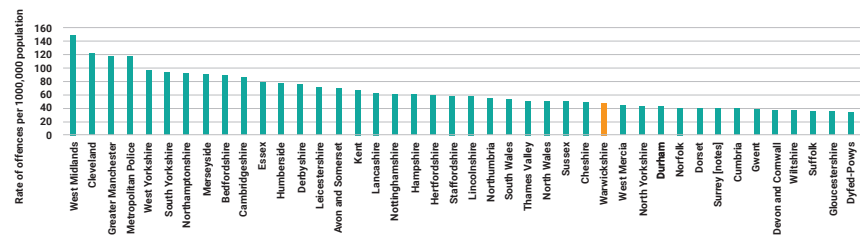
This strategy adopts the Government definition of domestic abuse which is outlined in the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act<sup>3</sup>. The new definition emphasises that domestic abuse is not only physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour, and economic abuse.

## Knife Crime

In the period October 2020-September 2021, the highest rate for Knife Crime Offences recorded in England and Wales was in West Midlands Police Force with 149 offences per 100,000 population. West Midlands Police Force is consistently the force with the highest rate of these offences in England and Wales.

For the same period, Warwickshire Police Force recorded 49 offences per 100,000 population for offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. See Graph 1 opposite.

**Offences involving knife or sharp instrument rate per 100,00 population recorded by the police for selected offences, by police force area, October 2020 to September 2021**

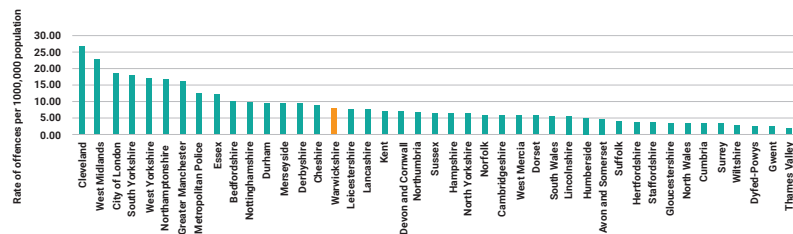


(Graph 1 Recorded Offences involving a knife or sharp instrument October 2020 – September 2021 per 100,000 population by police force areas), Source: ONS 'Crime in England and Wales Police Force Area Data Tables, Jan 2022

## Firearm Offences

Nationally the use of a firearm (whether it has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat) fell by 9% per 100,000 population between October 2020 and September 2021 compared to the previous 12 months. For the West Midlands region, the reduction was 3% in the same period. Cleveland Police recorded the highest volume of firearm offences, (26.5) whilst the Metropolitan Police Force has the highest number of offences at 1,123 (see graph 2 opposite)

**Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) rate per 100,000 population by police force area, England and Wales, October 2020 to September 2021**



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadata>

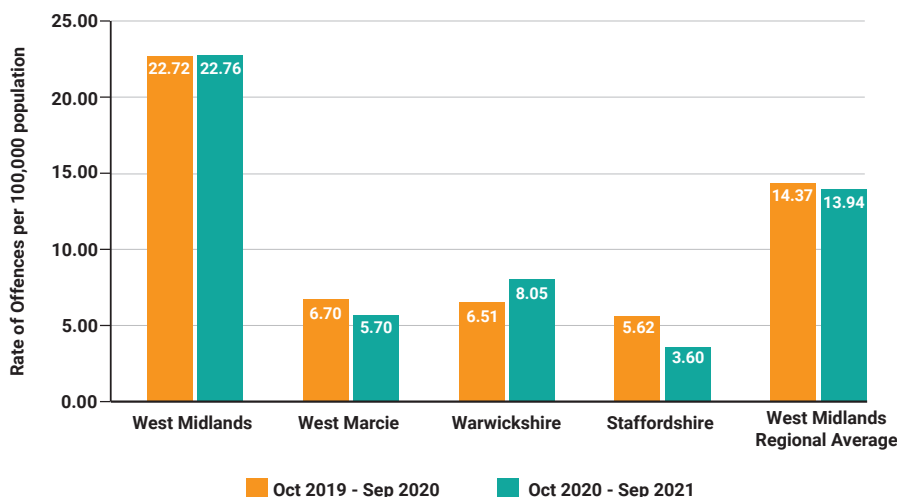
Warwickshire has low rates of both volume of firearm offences and the number of offences per 100,000, when compared Nationally and in the West Midlands.

However, Warwickshire is the only area in the West Midlands which has seen increases in recorded offences. The rate of offences has increased from 6.5 offences to 8 offences per 100,000 population in the last 2 year period. This is in comparison to 22.7 offences

per 100,000 in the West Midlands Police Force area, which has remained the same for both years (see Graph 3 below). In the year ending September 2021 Warwickshire recorded the 3rd highest volume of firearm offences for the West Midlands region.

The number of recorded offences in Warwickshire during a 12 month period increased by 9 in October 2020 to September 2021, from 38 to 47 offences.

**Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) rate per 100,000 population by police force area, West Midlands Region**



**Graph 3** – based on data from Office of National Statistics Table: Rate of firearm offences (excluding air weapons) per 100,000 population by police force area, Jan 22. , Source:ONS ‘Crime in England and Wales Police Force Area Data Tables, Jan 2022

## Causal Factors

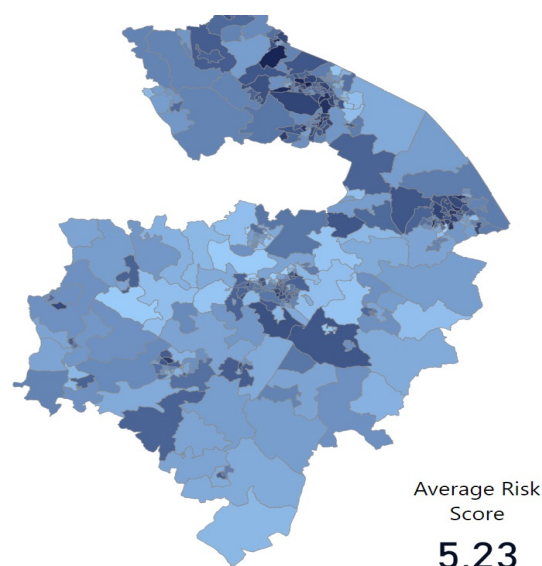
Alongside the crime data set out above, we have taken the opportunity to look deeper into the underlying factors that create an environment where violent conflict can become established.

These causal, or risk factors, fall under four headings:-

- **Health and societal risk factors** – this includes the level of social and economic deprivation, and access to free school meals
- **Causal crime risk factors** – this data covers recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour, drug offences, violent offences and domestic abuse incidents
- **Educational attainment factors** – the data is drawn from a range of data related to health care, educational attainment, pupil absenteeism and exclusion rates
- **Safeguarding risk factors** – the final set of data includes safeguarding cases per area across domestic abuse, parental mental health and parental substance misuses, as well as behavioural and safeguarding concerns.

LSOA	17-18	18-19	19-20	AVERAGE
Bar Pool North & Crescents	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Camp Hill Village & West	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Mancetter South & Ridge Lane	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Kingswood Grove Farm & Rural	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.67
Atherstone Central - Centre	9.00	9.00	10.00	9.33
Hill Top	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.33
Lillington East	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.33
Middlemarch & Swimming Pool	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.33
Bede Bedworth Town Centre	9.00	8.00	9.00	9.00

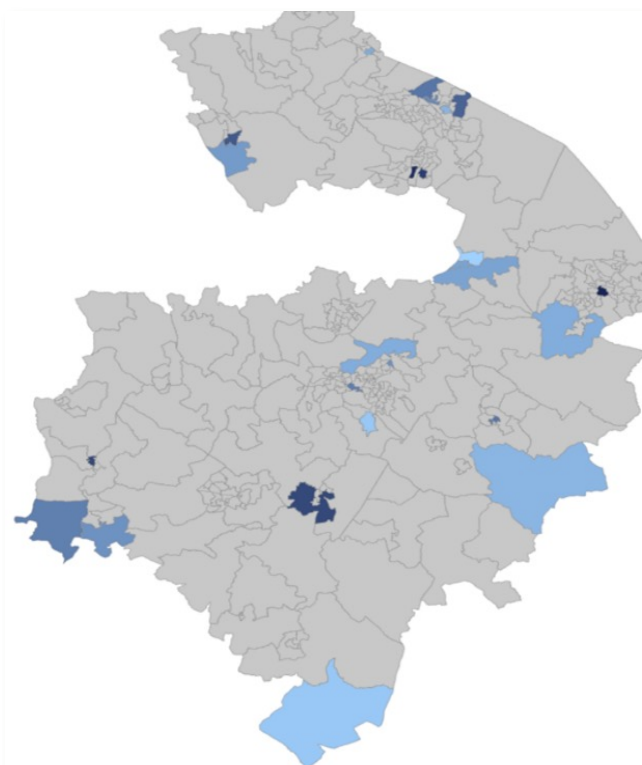
**Map 2 and Table 1** - Areas where there are high risk factor scores, against an Countywide average score of 5.3



As part of our review of the causal risk factors we looked at the areas that have had the biggest increases across the three-year period. Map 3 and Table 2 highlights the 6 areas in Warwickshire which had a risk score increase of 3 or more.

LOWER SUPER OUTPUT AREAS	AVERAGE RISK SCORE			
	17-18	18-19	19-20	CHANGE
Thurlaston	1	3	6	5
Crown North East	3	4	6	3
Southam North	4	5	7	3
St Nicholas East & The Long Shoot	5	5	8	3
Weddington South West & River	3	5	6	3
Weddington North	4	5	7	3

**Map 3 and Table 2** - Areas in Warwickshire which had a risk score increase of 3 or more



## Causal factors – case Analysis

A recent assessment of 23 cases referred to the Warwickshire Serious Organised Crime Interventions Group has highlighted that:-

- In one in three cases, there is a history of domestic violence and/or abuse in the family.**
- Over half of those referred had been exposed to violence within their peer group and wider community.**
- Approximately a quarter of cases had reference to substance misuse, whether associated with the individual or within their family.**
- One in five cases made reference to bereavement or long term chronic ill-health in the family.**
- In one in three cases, the person referred had been a victim of crime or bullying.**

These findings are consistent with other similar research on cases referred to Serious Violence Reduction Programmes, nationally and internationally.

## Summary

Whilst Warwickshire records significantly lower levels of knife and gun offences, the impact of drug markets through county lines is a growing issue which affects a number of communities across the County. This is of particular concern in areas where there are high levels of health, societal, educational attainment, causal crime and safeguarding risk factors, or where those risk factors are increasing.

Developing programmes and projects in those areas which have a long-term impact in reducing these risk factors will be key in delivering serious violence prevention for local communities.



## Our Vision

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“For Warwickshire to be a place where people, across all walks of life, work together to tackle the causes and consequences of serious violence, through collaboration, and to create a network of support so that the cycle of serious violence is broken.”

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## Our Definition of Serious Violence

We have adopted the World Health Organisation definition of violence as follows:

**“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”**

Krug et al, ed. World report on violence and health. 2002, World Health Organisation: Geneva

(A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention HM Government Oct 2019<sup>4</sup>)

However, our definition will include **coercive and/or controlling behaviour and financial abuse** which are part of the underlying causes of violence, as set out in this Strategy. This will ensure our approach aligns with other key strategies which address other forms of violence, such as Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls.

In the 2018 Serious Violence Strategy<sup>5</sup>, the government set out serious violence as including:

**“specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing. It also includes emerging crime threats faced in some areas of the country such as the use of corrosive substances as a weapon”.**



<sup>4</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/862794/multi-agency\\_approach\\_to\\_serious\\_violence\\_prevention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862794/multi-agency_approach_to_serious_violence_prevention.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf)

## What our strategy covers

Warwickshire's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy includes:-

### □ **Domestic Abuse -**

Domestic abuse is abusive behaviour of a person towards another if both are aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other. Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- financial abuse (which is behaviour that substantially affects a person's ability to either acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain good or services)
- psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

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□ **Sexual Offences** - Sexual abuse encapsulates various forms of crime including rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, online grooming, and domestic abuse or violence. Sexual abuse is when someone is forced, pressurised, or tricked into taking part in (or witnessing/watching)

any kind of sexual activity with another person.

Examples of sexual abuse include:

- unwanted touching
- indecent exposure
- being forced to look at sexual pictures or videos
- sexting
- child pornography.

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### □ **County Lines –**

The exploitation of individual, families or groups, through a network of drug supply from one area to another, carried out by organised criminal networks

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□ **Violence involving a weapon** - Including knife crime, gun crime and corrosive substances

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□ **Street gangs** - Including feuds, disrespect, territory-based violence

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□ **Serious violent acts driven through social media** – Using threats or coercion or using social media to promote serious violent conflict

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### □ **The Causal factors of serious violence –**

The underlying factors that directly impact on serious violence. These factors, can relate to an Individual (such as experiences of violence, bullying, bereavement or loss), Family (for example domestic violence, violence against women and girls, family breakdown or chronic ill health within a family member), Peer (such as conflict or feuds between peer groups), School (low attendance, engagement or educational attainment), and Community (for example poor housing, environmental neglect, poor transport links, high levels of unemployment).

## Our core principles – A Trauma Informed Approach to Serious Violence Prevention

Public Health England, in its publication, “A whole system multi agency approach to violence prevention” (see footnote 4), sets out three levels of violence prevention:

**1. primary prevention**  
(preventing violence before it happens)

**2. secondary prevention**  
(an immediate response to instances of violence) and

**3. tertiary prevention**  
(focusing on long term care and support).

Interventions to address violence are defined as universal (aimed at a general population); selected (targeted at those more at risk); and indicated (targeted at those who use violence).

The Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model, which is described in detail below, combines these universal and selected interventions, supporting those most impacted by serious violence whilst creating a climate where serious violence is not tolerated, thereby protecting future generations. (See Diagram 1)



## A Trauma Informed Approach to Serious Violence Prevention

At the core of our Model is a Trauma Informed Approach to Serious Violence Prevention.

Trauma-informed, is a strengths based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and response to, the impact of trauma. It emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for those affected by Serious Violence, and creates opportunities to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

Our Trauma Informed approach to Serious Violence Prevention:-

- Realises the widespread impact of trauma for individuals, families, peer groups, schools and local communities affected

by serious violence, and understands potential paths for recovery;

- Recognises the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others affected by serious violence;
- Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks to actively resist re-traumatisation
- Resists Re-traumatisation of those we work with and our staff.

The following diagram illustrates our Warwickshire

Trauma Informed Violence Reduction Framework, developing a range of Trauma Informed programmes that can:-

- Prevent serious violence by working across our partners to identify those most at risk of violence due to previous trauma and adversity.
- Respond to immediate issues by offering trauma informed support across our partnership services.
- Adopting a long-term approach, by embedding trauma informed practice at a school and community level.

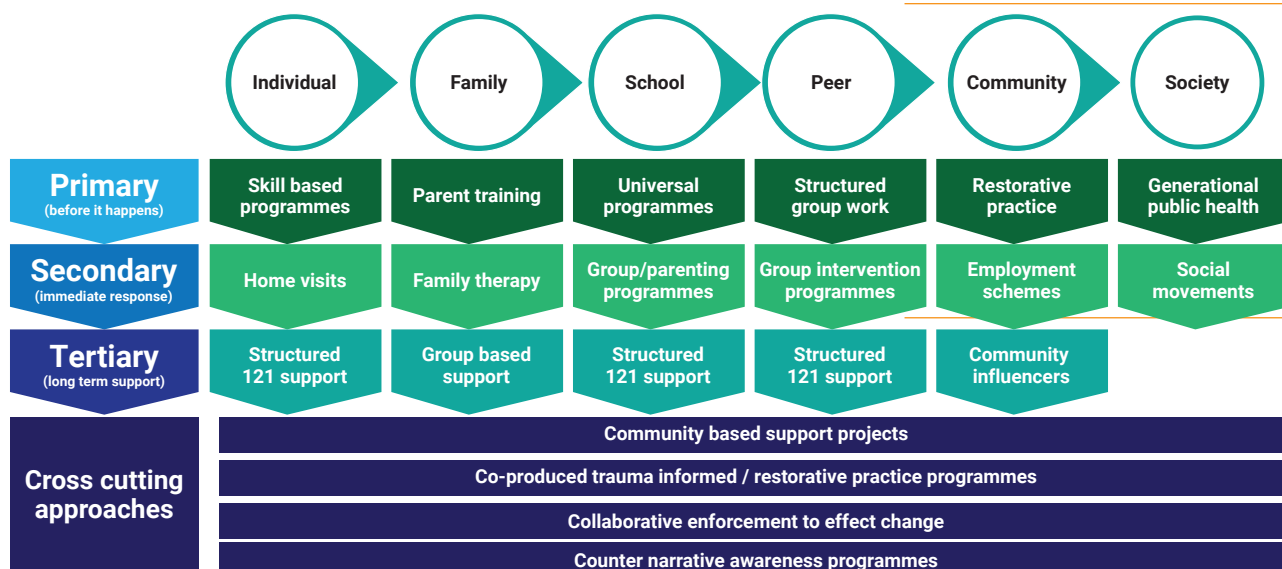


Diagram 1 – Trauma Informed Serious Violence Preventative model

## A Statutory Duty to Prevent Serious Violence

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 sets out a Statutory Duty for named services to share data, intelligence and knowledge for the purposes of understanding and addressing the root causes of serious violence. The Duty states that the following agencies should “*work together to identify and publish what actions they need to take collectively to reduce violent crime*” (including domestic abuse and sexual offences) and will be accountable for their activity and co-operation.

The Duty is intended to create the right conditions for authorities to collaborate and communicate regularly, to use existing partnerships to share information and take effective coordinated action in their local areas.

Whilst the duty does not specify a lead authority, the approach for Warwickshire will be that the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board will take the lead, working collaboratively with the Health and Well Being Board and Local Criminal Justice Board.

This is the first time that educational establishments are recognised as having a crucial role and duty in collaborating with other agencies to prevent violence. Our ambition will be to create a framework where educational establishments can agree approaches and share best practice in how to embed a violence prevention approach across Warwickshire.

- Police,
- Local councils,
- Fire and Rescue
- Local health bodies such as NHS Trusts and Integrated Care Boards,
- National Probation Service and
- Education Authorities, educational representatives and
- Youth Offending Services

**It is recommended that the partnership takes a Public Health Approach to tackling and preventing serious violence.**



## Serious Weapon Homicide Reviews

In addition to the above Duty, the Act has introduced Serious Weapon Homicide Reviews. The Act makes provisions into the circumstances of certain homicides where the victim was aged 18 or over and the events surrounding their death involved or were likely to have involved the use of an offensive weapon.

An offensive weapon includes (but is not limited to) knives, guns or corrosive substances.

These reviews adopt a similar approach to Domestic Homicide Reviews, by looking at the involvement of key agencies and the lessons learnt that could prevent similar tragic deaths occurring. Warwickshire will seek to be an early adopter of this approach, benefitting from the learning at the earliest opportunity.



## The Warwickshire Violence Prevention Model

The Warwickshire Serious Violence Model is based on well researched Public Health approaches to violence reduction, combined with current safeguarding principles.

Our model is described in the following diagram and is based on:

### □ **The 5 C's approach**

– Collaboration, co-production, co-operation in data intelligence and sharing, a counter narrative, embedded in a community consensus approach are recognised by Public Health England as core elements to any violence prevention approach

□ **Trauma and Adversity** - Led by Public Health Wales, there is strong evidence of the association between childhood adversity and poorer physical and mental well-being across a person's life through childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood. The evidence shows that adverse experiences can have a negative impact on child and adolescent brain development, which are associated with a variety of

health harming behaviours in adolescence that can impact on physical and mental health and well-being. There is evidence to suggest many who have adverse experiences will have been exposed to other adversities during childhood, including those related to structural and social inequalities, poverty, bereavement, loss and discrimination. Our model assesses these experiences, developing interventions that can have a long-term positive impact in a person's emotional and social development.

### □ **Understanding Risk and Protective factors** –

Alongside trauma and adversity, risk and protector factors enable agencies to recognise the risks in a person's life and the positive elements that can be built on. This approach acts as a counter narrative to the issues that a person affected by serious violence may present, building on the positive abilities, or relationships, that can keep them safe.

### □ **Contextual Safeguarding**

– Professor Carlene Firmin developed an approach to safeguarding which looks beyond their individual and family dynamics, by exploring, their peer, school and wide community relationships. Each context is weighted, for each individual, looking at the risks and protective characteristics.

□ **Capricorn Framework** – developed by Public Health England, the Capricorn Framework recognises the opportunities for collaborative approaches to prevent offending and re-offending by children, by looking at primary (or 'upstream') causes of offending, as well as secondary (or 'downstream') causes.



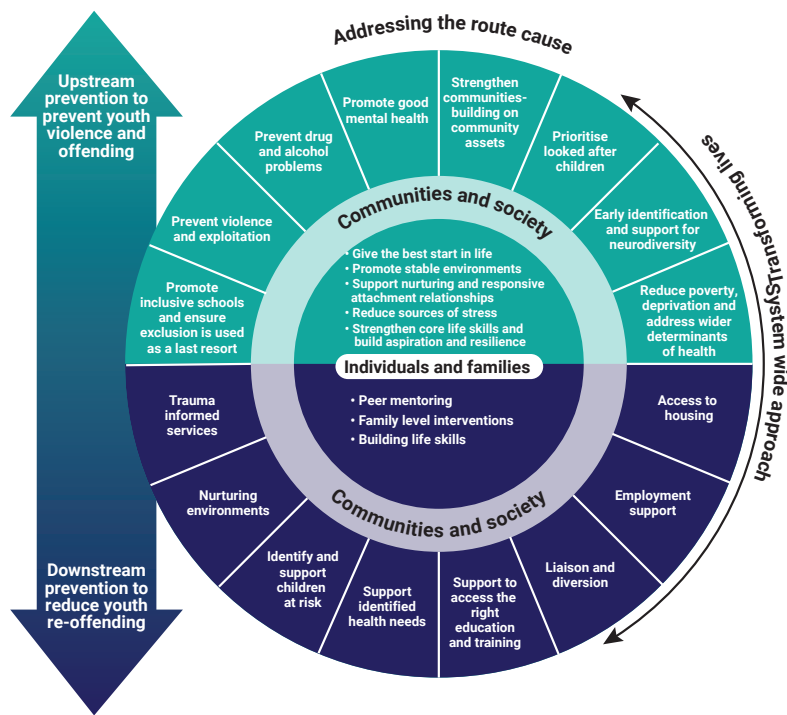


Figure 2 (Capricorn Framework – PHE 2019)

The following two diagrams illustrates how we have combined these approaches to create our Warwickshire Violence Prevention Model.

### Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model

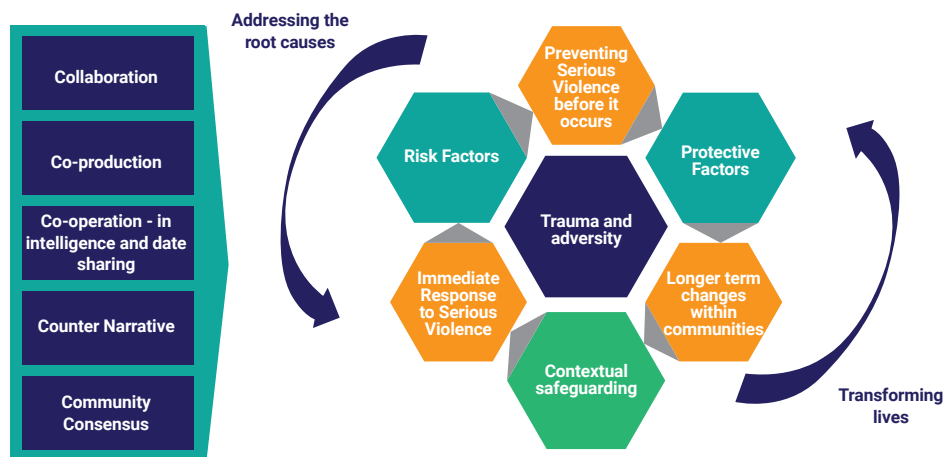
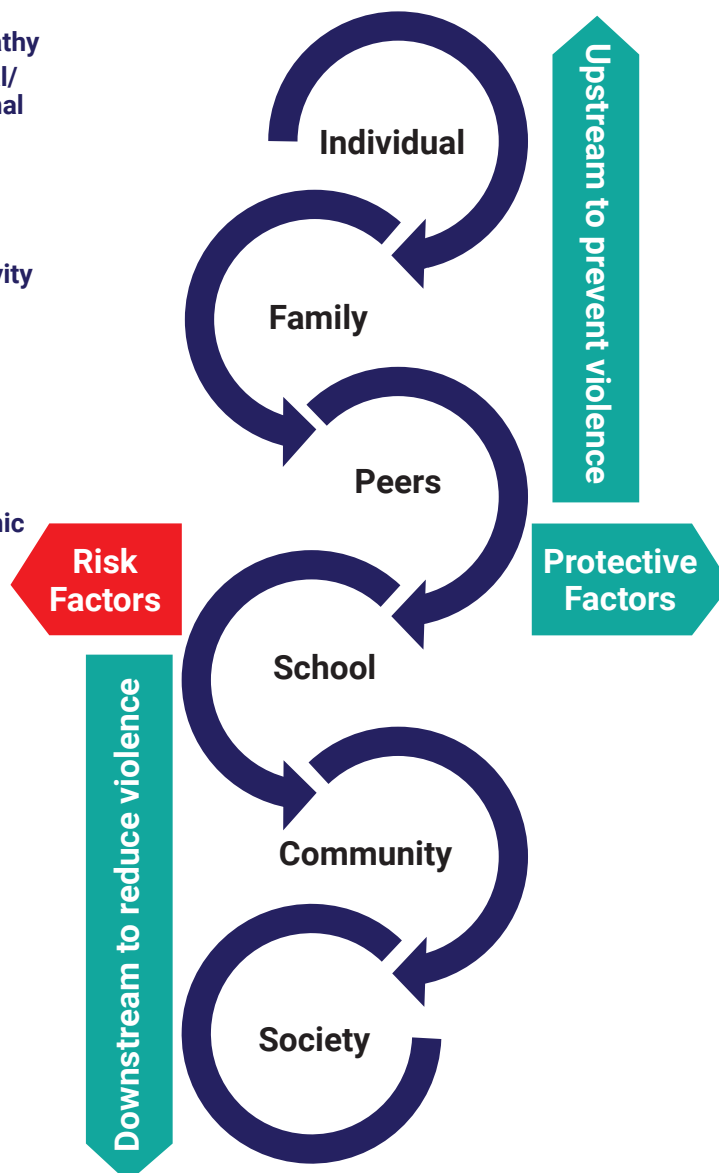


Diagram 3 – Public Health Approaches to Violence Prevention

## Risk factors

- Hyperactivity
  - Lack of guilt and empathy
  - Maltreatment (physical/verbal/sexual/emotional)
  - Exposure to violence
  - Violent aggression
  - Positive attitude towards delinquency
  - Previous criminal activity
- 
- Family poverty
  - Parental separation
  - Domestic violence
  - Bereavement of loss
  - Homelessness
  - Mental illness or chronic ill health in the family
  - Alcohol abuse and/or drug use
  - Incarceration
  - Anti social parents
- 
- Delinquent peers
  - Commitment to delinquent peers
  - Peer rejection
- 
- Academic under performance
  - Low commitment to school
  - Frequent truancy
- 
- Neighbourhood disorganisation
  - Availability of drugs
  - Social, economic and environmental deprivation
  - Poor transport links
  - Wider societal conflict/disorientation



## Protective factors

- Belief in moral order
  - Positive attitudes, values or beliefs
  - Conflict resolution skills
  - Good mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health
  - Low impulsivity
  - Positive self-esteem
- 
- Good parenting skills
  - Parental supervision
  - Family bonds and stable family structure
  - Infrequent parent/child conflict
  - Positive peer group
  - Strong moral values
- 
- Friends who engage in conventional behaviour
  - Low peer delinquency
  - Positive social peer group
  - Strong sense of identity within peer group
- 
- School inclusion
  - Positive recognition/successful achievement at school
  - High educational aspirations
  - Positive educational peer group
  - Supportive individual(s)
- 
- Accessible local facilities
  - Positive community role models
  - Employment support
  - Strong social supports
  - Low economic deprivation
  - Neighbourhood interaction, neighbour support

Diagram 4 – Warwickshire Violence Prevention Model

**In summary we will use the Warwickshire Serious Violence Model to:-**

Prevent Serious Violence before it happens	Developing a series of universal, targeted, and intensive interventions that prevent people becoming involved in county lines, group, or gang violence, carrying, or using a weapon, or becoming involved in social media that leads to violent conflict.
Respond to emerging or immediate risks of serious violence	Co-ordinating a response led by criminal justice, safeguarding, education and community safety leads to reduce the immediate threat of county lines, gang or group violence and weapon related violence.
Long Term Support	Co-produce a series of interventions that offer routes out of county lines or violent conflict, strengthen communities to create an environment where serious violence is recognised and challenged; and collaborate with health colleagues to embed violence prevention at the core of the long-term approach to the determinants of health.

**Recommendation –**

Our model recognises that the interventions that we develop are not restricted by an arbitrary age range or moment in time. This is because we know that key moments of change, developmentally and emotionally can take place at different times including in early adulthood. Our ambition will be create an offer that is available at the reachable moment for a person affected by violence, whenever that is.

**Table 2:** Households who presented as homeless as a result of Domestic Abuse broken down by District and Borough in Warwickshire (2018-2021)



## Setting out our long-term Strategic Approach

Warwickshire partners want this strategy to be different. We want to bring it to life so those that read it recognise the importance of a preventative approach and the role they can have in delivering it.

In order to do that we have taken a series of real-life case studies of people affected by serious violence and merged them into one life journey. Each chapter sets out part of that journey from early years to adulthood. Each chapter uses the Warwickshire Violence Prevention Model to define the issues, identify the

opportunities and what we will do to make a difference, collaboratively.

We fully recognise that a number of the challenges we face are both generational and societal. By basing them on a real life journey, we can start to see how we can affect change by defining the problem, identifying the causes, and delivering interventions at the right time with the maximum impact. This will allow us to scale up our success, for the benefit of communities across Warwickshire.

**Aim – To use the Strategy as an awareness raising training programme with key partners across health, criminal justice, police, educational providers, children and families and community organisations so that they can recognise the crucial role they play in violence prevention.**



“The journey in the life of.....”



## 0-5 My early years

*"My early years? To be honest you are the first people to ask me that.*

*It's a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. I've heard what people have said about my first few years. My mum was young when she had me, 17 I think, she had lots of issues, mostly drugs and alcohol. When she was up she was like really up, but there were lots of dark times, I remember them. My dad, well I can't say much about him. I had an older sister and my grandmother. I remember being safe with them.*

*What I do remember is being cold and hungry, I remember being frightened when we weren't allowed in the house.*

*I remember being frightened when my dad came round, the fights and the beatings. I remember being beaten when I wet the bed and I remember when the front door was smashed in by the police and crying when social workers came to take us away. I remember the times we were evicted, not all of them, but I remember my sister crying and being scared at night in the places we lived. They were never a home.*

*I cannot see these things clearly, but I still feel them, being cold, frightened and hungry, unwanted. I suppose that's why I did what I did to survive."*

## Defining the issues and opportunities

- **Collaboration-**  
Recognising the factors related to adversity and trauma. Opportunity for collaboration across agencies to address drug, alcohol and domestic abuse through a single co-ordinated response

---

- **Co-production –**  
Importance of co-produced, co-ordinated health care support with front line staff able to recognise the risks within the family

---

- **Co-operation –** key information shared across all agencies to better assess risk and protective factors

---

- **Counter Narrative –** stable and safe accommodation could have provided the opportunity for co-ordinated support. Missed opportunity to work with other supportive family members. Provide direct support for the father through DV perpetrator programmes

## What we will do to make a difference

### Countywide

Train all front-line family health providers to recognise Adversity and Trauma and Contextual Safeguarding

Create a single front door for lone parents 16-24 with complex needs

Ensure that those residing in DA safe Accommodation are supported with financial, practical, social and emotional support

Commission an all-age drug and alcohol service that focuses on early intervention, prevention and appropriate treatment provision

### Local

Create locally based emotional support programmes for extended family carers

Assess local community assets to ensure there are accessible facilities offering social, practical, and emotional support for young parents and carers.

## 5-11 My primary years

*"I remember my first day at school. Yeah, that was special. It felt like an escape. My sister took me cos she was a few years older and my mum was having one of her dark times. I tried real hard to make friends, I wanted to be someone people liked; that wanted to be my friend. It was important. Yeah I was physical, but not violent.*

*I did well in my first year. I loved art and I was told I was gifted. That was a big thing, I still remember it. It was in the second year when I started to get bullied. It was my clothes to start with, then people said I smelled. That hurt. After a while it got the better of me, so I started to deal with it, to fight back. I got labelled, but I also got different friends, more*

*loyal. Some of them are still my friends now. My Gran got called in, like every few weeks. Then I got suspended. I stopped doing art cos it didn't fit with the image I had....I wanted.*

*My Gran died when I was 9. I don't want to talk about that.*

*Mum had a new boyfriend and he was good for her. She started getting straight and we stopped having lots of different people in our house, night and day. Her boyfriend? I didn't like him and after a while my sister starting to stay out, stayed at friends, even though he would go searching for her. I missed her but she had her life and I couldn't protect her."*



## Defining the issues and opportunities

- **Collaboration-** collaboration between schools, children, families and health providers to ensure that emotional support for young people affected by trauma is accessible at the point of need.

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- **Co-operation** – review how intelligence is shared across agencies from a contextual safeguarding perspective so that a wider range of agencies can be involved in determining risks for the whole family.

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- **Co-production** – issue of bullying connected to challenges within the family, financially and emotionally that require a co-produced intervention. Opportunity to universally address bullying and the impact of a young person at risk.

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- **Counter Narrative** opportunity to focus on the positive characteristics and provide additional support in school and at a community level could have developed stronger self-esteem.

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- **Community Consensus** – involvement in community based programmes offer an opportunity to develop pro-social friendship groups.

---

**“I remember my first day at school. Yeah, that was special. It felt like an escape. My sister took me cos she was a few years older and my mum was having one of her dark times. “**

## What we will do to make a difference

### Countywide

Develop a training and awareness toolkit for all educational providers to recognise the signs associated with adverse experiences which can harden trauma and the impact of trauma.

Establish an advice and support service for schools and college staff to discuss emerging trends and issues

Define an accessible emotional support programme for young people and families affected by loss.

Work with Street Doctors to introduce First Aid, Knife Awareness sessions for year 6 and year 7 groups.

### Local

Ensure that practical support for families is easily accessible and does not create stigma.

Local intelligence sharing across early years and primary education, local authorities and children and family services so that practical and emotional support can be provided by local services.

Create local Serious Violence Prevention Community Forums, engaging with community and voluntary sector organisation to develop and deliver local intervention programmes.



## 11-16 Shaping my identity

*"My first year at secondary school was tough, bit of an initiation I suppose. I got robbed to start with, school bag, money, my shoes. Mum got angry and reported them at first, to the school and the Police. Nothing changed. I wasn't the only one.*

*By the second year me and my friends started forming our own alliances with some of the older kids. They got me a bike and I did some work for them to pay them back, nothing heavy. We looked out for each other. Yeah, there were a group of us, boys and girls. That's one thing you lot have got wrong you know. You always focus on the boys when its often the girls that bring things on.*

*By year 9 I had a rep. I did a few things I won't lie. But I was earning money and I was current. That's something else you lot need to understand; what it means to be current.*

*By the time I was 15 I had a plan. I stayed at school. I could of got expelled but I'm not stupid. I made sure school worked for me.*

*My mum? She had two other kids with her man. I was close to the oldest. He was 5 or 6 by the time I was in year 10. He looked up to me and I looked out for him. Then mum got cancer. Her man said I should take care of her, but I wasn't invested in her like that. My sister moved back in to help out. She was 18 then, had a kid on the way. But she moved back for mum. She told me what mum's boyfriend did to her. That's when things really turned. I got my friends over, even some of the olders, we dragged him out the house and beat him, in the middle of the street. Police got called. But no one said anything, not even my mum. What did I feel? An adrenaline rush, that's what's I felt. I got fixed on it, for the first time in my life I felt alive.*



## Defining the issues and opportunities

- **Collaboration** – Emerging issue of services working in isolation as they address issues as they arise. Opportunity to collaborate between the school, community organisations, target youth support, police and health agencies to design interventions that can be delivered within and outside of the school setting

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- **Co-operation** – co-operation between police and educational establishments to share low level intelligence on incidents that could lead to an escalation in risk, including violence through social media

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- **Counter Narrative** – Opportunity to build on the positive relationship with younger sibling(s). Opportunity to involve the wider peer group in programmes focused on the positive strengths.

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- **Co-production** – Opportunity of co-produced support between health providers and family nurse partnership to support families with complex health needs.

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- **Community Consensus** – Local communities are best placed to identify patterns of behaviour that could lead to escalation in violence. There is an opportunity to provide community and voluntary sector leads with greater knowledge of the signs to look out for and where to seek advice and refer.

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## What we will do to make a difference

### Countywide

Embed the Warwickshire Whole School Approach to Violence Prevention across all Secondary Schools in the County

Introduce the “Mentor in Violence Programme” for Schools to invest in for both staff and pupils (see below)

Expand the Warwickshire “Identity Programme” for both parents and young people (see below)

Review the commissioned provision of Mental Health and Emotional Support Services for children and young people to ensure it is accessible and responsive to those most at risk of becoming involved of serious violence

Embed the Warwickshire Violence Prevention Model across agencies and expand the attendees at SOCJAG interventions to include schools and key health providers.

Review our social media and cyber educational programmes to ensure they focus on violence prevention and risks of exploitation

### Local

Carry out a review of local community and voluntary provision that young people and parents with complex health needs can be sign posted to.

Identify local community and voluntary sector providers that would run sessions within the school environment.

## 16-21 Becoming an adult?

*To be honest, once I finished school things got mad. I got my GCSE's, including Maths and English. I got signed up for college. But, in reality, it was all about my friends, what we did on the road, the parties, earning money, staying current. Yeah, we smoked and took stuff. But we weren't like those nitties. We carried stuff, set up houses, carried phones, got paid for all sorts of work. Fed's were all over us, but there we were a crew so they couldn't pin anything.*

*I first got stabbed when I was 16. I was dumb. Wrong place with the wrong people. But it helped my rep. I posted selfies of me in the hospital with the stiches in leg. Yeah I've been stabbed three times, but back then it's like I was invincible. When we got to about 18-19 some of my friends wanted out. There was a lot of beef over that. Some of the olders stepped in. One of my friends was called out. He got stabbed by others in our group. He was lucky to survive. That's when it all started to fall apart then. We didn't know who to trust. So we kept it tight, between 3 or 4 of us and started to recruit our own youngers.*

*Arrested? Yeah I got arrested lots of times. Most of them just go NFA'd. I had a number of people who worked with me, from social services I think or the youth offending team . Most of them were busy and they changed every few months. Some of them described me as being "exploited"! Like seriously, who do you think has exploited me? There was one worker, she was good but then when I got to over 18 that all stopped. Seems that being 18 changes you. By then I had left home. I was mainly sofa surfing and if I didn't have anywhere to stay I paid for a hostel. I learnt to drive, bought a car and some nights slept in that. When I was 20, I got arrested on the M1 with a kilo of coke and £5,000 in cash. I had a younger in the car, 14, 15 years old. He took the main rap. But I still got time.*

*Prison? Yeah prison was hard. Too much time locked in a cell. I wasn't ready for that. That's when I got into drugs, not like addicted, just to get through the days so I didn't have to think much.*



## Defining the issues and opportunities

- **Collaboration** – Issues of multiple interventions that are time limited, with no long term consistency. Opportunity for NHS Trusts and mentoring agencies to work together supporting young people up age 24 who have a stabbed/gun shot injury

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- **Co-production** – Issue of how intervention and enforcement agencies work together to co-design targeted interventions pre and post custody. Issue of co-produced intensive support programmes for 17-24 year olds.

---

- **Co-operation** – Opportunity for sharing intelligence across enforcement, criminal justice and intervention providers to better assess escalating risks so that interventions can be more targeted.

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- **Counter Narrative** – Opportunity to build in the entrepreneurial/ business skills that have been developed, to create legitimate employment or business opportunities.

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- **Community Consensus** – Opportunity of working with local communities to better understand the local dynamics that are affecting serious violence and in designing local solutions.

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**“I first got stabbed when I was 16. I was dumb. Wrong place with the wrong people. But it helped my rep. I posted selfies of me in the hospital with the stiches in leg. Yeah I’ve been stabbed three times, but back then it’s like I was invincible.”**

## What we will do to make a difference

### Countywide

Establish a Community Violence Navigators Programme that can be rolled out in local areas affected by serious violence

Establish a Warwickshire based programme of youth workers linked to NHS Trusts to support any young person, aged 14-25, who have suffered a serious violence injury.

Establish a sustainable Countywide Serious Violence Exit programme based on the principles of the Boston Ceasefire Model(see below).

Expand our Fair Chance employability and skills offer for young people affected by serious violence so that they are both work ready and successful in seeking employment opportunities

### Local

Establish a local employment opportunities scheme or employment placements for young people at risk of becoming involved in serious violence.

Identify local funding opportunities for training programmes for young adults.

Train community-based Violence Interrupters in key local areas affected by serious violence.

## 21 plus Moving on?

*I did just over 2 years. By the time I came out my friends had moved on. Seems I wasn't current anymore. I got put into an AP, cos I refused to go home. I did some work, nothing heavy, just to earn some money. I got arrested few times, returned to prison and re-released. By the time I was 23-24 I had enough. So, I got some night work on the railways. It was alright until they did a random drugs test, then I was let go. I got my CSAS card through my Probation Worker. Respect to her. I'm back at college now training to be a painter/decorator and working for a construction company. Seems I'm quite good at it. My Probation Worker said she would get some counselling, but turns out I'm not eligible. I'm not bothered.*

*Did I mention I had a kid? Yeah, he's 5 now. That changed a lot. My sister has helped bring him up so I didn't lose touch. She's got her own place now, she's training to be a nurse. I'm also seeing someone, its good, we*

*argue but I don't know any relationship where there isn't some heat every now and then.*

*Mum? Her man left her just after she got sick. But she's clean, she's been clean for a few years. She works in a home supporting older people. She's doesn't get paid much but she's got a new man, whose got his own kids and he's good for her. I don't go round.*

*My younger brother? I still keep an eye out for him. He's between schools right now, but he needs to make his own choices.*

*I still see some of my friends, we meet up for a smoke. Most have moved on but those that haven't we still stay close to. You cannot just walk away you know! When you think about it, there a lot you cannot just walk away from.*

*What would I change in my life? I don't know, no one ever asked me that before. I don't know how to answer. What would you change?*



## Defining the issues and opportunities

### □ Collaboration –

Opportunity to strengthen the relationships between secure estate, Probation and local employers to create skills and educational opportunities for those exiting serious violence lifestyles.

### □ Co-operation –

Issue of how criminal justice agencies safely share information on clients with employees to enable better support within the work place and employment opportunities to be maintained.

### □ Community Consensus –

Opportunity of working with local communities, including local businesses to establish employment pathways, with the result of creating positive role models.

□ **Co-production** – Issue of increased threats, intimidation and violence against those seeking to exit a group. Opportunity to co-produce a programme between Police, criminal justice and front line services to reduce conflict before it escalates.

□ **Counter Narrative** – The positive influence of having a child is a key opportunity for change and reinforcing the positive opportunities of change.

**What would I change in my life? I don't know, no one ever asked me that before. I don't know how to answer. What would you change?**

## What we will do to make a difference

### Countywide

people to become skilled mentors to provide long-term support.

Establish a countywide Business Entrepreneurs programme directly focused on young adults affected by serious violence.

Establish a dedicated support service to support employers who are willing to offer employment or volunteering opportunities for young people affected by violence.

Establish a multi-agency serious violence interventions team, targeting support for those seeking to exit serious violence lifestyles, including practical, social and emotional support.

Establish a Warwickshire Conflict Mediation Service with the aim of reducing the conflict between group or within groups to enable people to exit safely.

Embed the Caring Dads programme across the county

### Local

Work with local Business Improvement Districts and Growth Hubs to expand the employment and skills opportunities as a pathway for those looking to exit serious violence lifestyles.

Working with local colleges to review the vocational educational courses so they are accessible to young adult offenders.

## Warwickshire Identity Model

The Warwickshire Identity Model has been designed in partnership with voluntary organisations, schools and Public Health colleagues. The model can be used by front line workers and is designed to both assess and challenge young adults on five dynamics which shape their identity. It can also be used in working with parents to help them in understanding and influencing the identity of their young adults.

The aim is to help young adults to explore what influences them and how they can evaluate what makes them the person they are and the person they want to be.

The 5 dynamics are:-

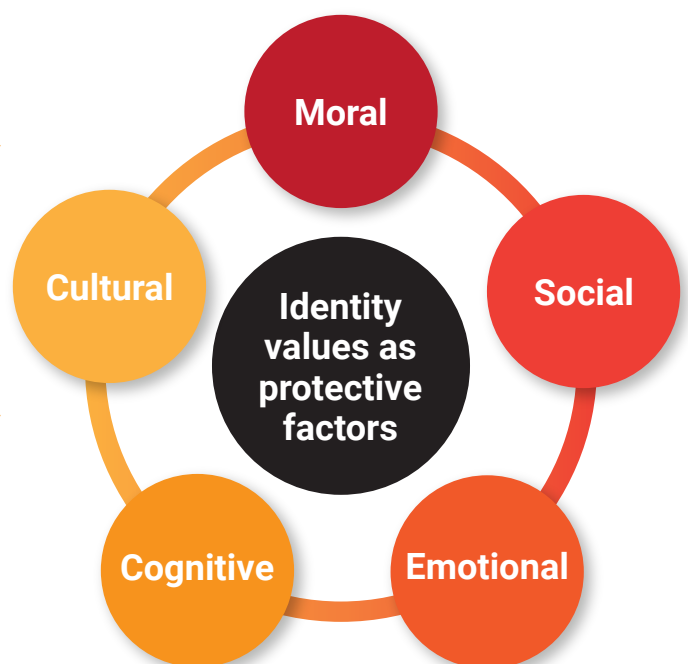
□ **Moral** – Understanding the Moral Values they have and why they are important. Through reviewing what is morally acceptable by exploring different moral dilemmas creates the opportunity to reset their Moral Compass for themselves but also in terms of those around them.

□ **Social** – Exploring how current social issues shape and influence them. Debating social issues creates the opportunity to understand different perspectives and how they can influence societal changes.

□ **Emotional** – Understanding what influences our emotions, recognising the importance of those influences and how to channel them in positive ways. Defining Emotional Intelligence and developing skills to recognise how others are affected by their own emotional journey.

□ **Cognitive** – Recognising how others are affected by their actions, or how others perceive them. Reflecting on how their actions or perceptions impact on others creates the opportunity for changing their approach to confrontational or challenging situations

□ **Cultural** – Exploring their cultural journey and how their journey is different to that of their parents, siblings and peers. Taking the opportunity to value and celebrate that journey, rather than reflecting on the issues or confrontation that it has or could create.



## Boston Ceasefire Model

The Boston Ceasefire Model is a problem-orientated police model originally designed to reduce gun violence in the US city of Boston. The Model was originally based on two strategic approaches: to co-ordinate enforcement agencies to maximise every opportunity to disrupt those involved in gun violence; to develop interventions that deter violence, referred to as “pulling levers”. The Model was introduced in other US cities and in the UK in the mid 2000’s. Research has highlighted that the Model has a value as part of a sustained multi-faceted violence intervention programme.

Principle of the “pulling levers” approach is:-

- Target gangs/groups directly involved in violence
- Reach out to those involved, as a group or individual, with an offer of help to move away from a lifestyle of violence
- Re-enforce the message that violence will not be tolerated. This message is given from authorities and local community leads
- Co-ordinate enforcement action against those who chose to continue with violent conflict

In the UK, this approach was delivered by a series of “Call-In’s” involving partnership organisations, key community influencers and the voice of those affected by violence. The offer of support formed part of other criminal justice interventions, rather than delivered separately. This has increased compliance and resulted in better outcomes.



## Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention - Whole Schools Approach

A whole school approach is vital for the sustainability of a County Line and Serious Violence Prevention Model. In essence the ambition is to take every opportunity to embed programmes within the fabric of the school, educationally, socially and culturally, to provide young people and parents with the skills to recognise the risks and have the support to make alternative choices to prevent violence.

The aim of the model is:-

**“To support young people to make positive choices, to recognise the risk and long term consequences of county lines and provide specialist support for those young people at risk of being exploited by county lines and serious violence associated with county lines”.**

Nationally there are a wide range of whole school programmes available.

This evidence is strongest where there is:-

- **A core theme, or core programme which remains central and committed to its original objective.**

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- **The core theme, or core programme is sustained over a number of years.**

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- **The schools approach is part of a wider, community response to violence prevention, where local partners and community leaders co-produce the programme.**

The Warwickshire Whole Schools approach works with the Senior Leadership Team of a school, College or Trust to design a structured programme that supports teachers, students and parents, based on the issues that the school is facing. The programme can be delivered through a universal offer, aimed

at groups of students and parents who are affected by gangs, knife crime or county lines, or through bespoke 121 support. Where the opportunity allows, the programme directly involved local community organisations and businesses with the aim of developing local interventions or pathways out.



## Warwick Community Impact Operations Group CIOG

Following two county lines related murders in 2020, the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership established a partnership to identify those most vulnerable to exploitation through county lines and also develop a range of local disruption tactics to prevent criminal networks establishing drug supply networks in local areas.

Since the group was established 309 individuals have been identified, many of which received positive partnership interventions.

One example of the success of the group relates to a vulnerable male who was being exploited by a County Lines from Coventry. His flat was cuckooed using a combination of violence and the promise of free drugs. Warwickshire Police made a number of arrests at the property and support services were able to engage with the victim supporting him to access a 12 month rehab placement out of area. As a result this person has relocated and now volunteers at the hospital where he recovered



## How we will deliver the Strategy

The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board is the strategic board which sets the ambitions and priorities for the county to reduce crime and the fear of crime. However, as we have highlighted above, delivering a long-term approach to serious violence prevention requires collaboration across other strategic partnerships and the co-production of programmes.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a crucial strategic partnership. Our intention will be for these two boards to co-design our approach, maximising the resources available and, importantly, to use their influence across partner organisations to deliver the Serious Violence Prevention Model set out in this strategy.

In 2021 the Safer Warwickshire Partnership undertook a review of the Board, setting out three long term strategic ambitions:-

- Addressing the root causes of violence
- Safer, Healthy and Empowered Communities
- Tackling discrimination in all of its forms

Preventing serious violence is a key priority for the Safer Warwickshire Partnership and this Strategy is critical in achieving the ambitions that have been set.

The following structure sets out our partnership approach.

- **Warwickshire Serious Organised Crime Strategic Group** – Sets the partnership priorities and delivery plan to ensure that the Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Model is delivered.
- **Warwickshire Serious Violence Tactical Group** – Police and criminal justice led fortnightly meetings to assess the most up to date threat and harm from county lines and gang violence. The meeting reviews the impact of county lines operating across Warwickshire, those involved and the partnership disruption tactics. In addition, the meeting identifies key individuals or groups who affect others or are at risk of being affected into county lines and violent conflict.

- **Warwickshire Serious Violence Interventions Group** – The Interventions Group receives referrals from the Tactical group, local community safety groups, Youth offending Service, National Probation Service, Exploitation and Safeguarding groups, partner agencies and schools. Referrals can be on individuals involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, serious violence, or groups who are engaged in violent conflict. The Interventions Group includes a range of partner agencies and community organisations who assess each referral using the Warwickshire Serious Violence Interventions Model as set out above. Bespoke interventions are designed with the aim of supporting the individual or group into positive lifestyles

□ **Local Community Safety Partnership Violence Prevention Operational Groups** – Each of the 4 Community Safety Partnerships across the County have established local operational groups based on the local challenges related to serious violence. These vital Operational groups use a Problem Solving approach

to identify those most at risk of county lines or group conflict, develops a series of disruption tactics and develops locally based interventions, or routes out. Individuals or groups who are assessed as emerging threats are referred to The Warwickshire Serious Violence Tactical or Interventions Group, as appropriate.



## Our Structure

Our structure for delivery is aimed to maximise the resources at our disposal and ensure that those who need support can access it consistently across the county. The following Venn diagram illustrates our structure. It is based on the interdependences of working regionally, countywide and locally.

- **Regionally** – to ensure that Warwickshire benefits from regional resources and importantly uses its influence to ensure that regional programmes do not adversely impact on communities across the county.

- **Countywide** – to develop programmes that are cost effective and consistent across Warwickshire. A number of programmes such as Mentoring Provision, gang conflict resolution services, parenting support, access to well-being services or a universal Whole Schools Approach are best developed and delivered at a county level

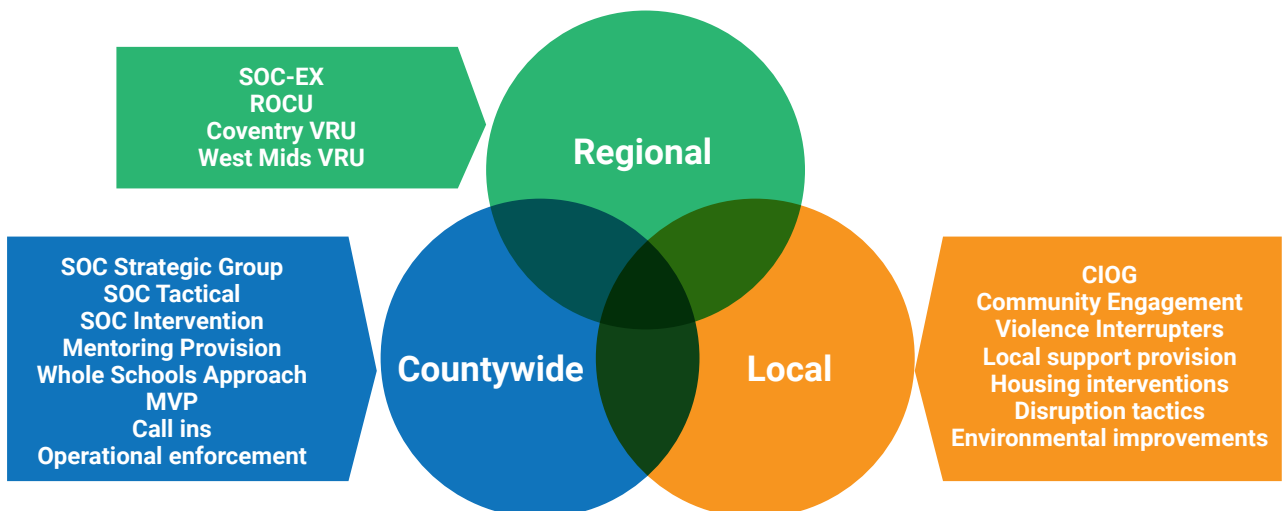
- **Locally** – local community safety partnerships are best placed to understand the local issues and dynamics with local communities. Developing disruption programmes, developing local educational or employment schemes, local, environmental

improvement or community responses are best delivered at a local level.

It is recognised that there is an opportunity to reframe our structures to minimise duplication and ensure that our interventions are co-designed and have maximum affect.

There is a commitment across partner agencies, educational bodies, and the community and voluntary sector prevent serious violence and the causes of serious violence. To ensure this is a sustained long-term approach it is recommended that a Chief Officers Group is established to provide strong leadership in driving and implementing this and other cross cutting strategic priorities.

### Warwickshire Serious Violence Structure



## Outcome Measures

The following draft outcome measures and will be formalised through the consultation process. Our ambition is to align the outcome measures with key strategies to ensure we maximise the partnership opportunities. The diagram below illustrates the connection between Warwickshire Community Safety Strategies and National strategies and plans.

On agreement of the Outcomes and delivery plan will be developed. This will be

shared across the Community Safety Strategic Boards, but will be the responsibility of the Warwickshire Serious Organised Crime Strategic Group to ensure delivery.

The structure of the delivery plan will be based on the three overarching priorities and the actions or activities will be shared, rather than individual agency. The following table is an illustrative guide to the delivery plan. The plan will be in place by late Autumn 2022 and reviewed quarterly.

### Our delivery

<b>Preventing Violence Before it Occurs</b>  <b>Immediate Response to Serious Violence</b>  <b>Longer Support with Communities</b>	<b>Training</b>
	<b>Early identification/interventions</b>
	<b>Targeted Interventions/support</b>
	<b>Specialist support</b>
	<b>Enforcement</b>

## Overarching Outcomes

Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board agreed three overarching strategic ambitions. This strategy is directly relevant to the ambition, "Tackling the Causes of Violence".

The draft outcomes for this strategy are as follows:-

- Undertake violence prevention awareness training to front line practitioners

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- Improving our assessment and referral processes for those affected by or at risk of serious violence

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- Embed a Public Health Approach to address Serious Violence

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- Establish a cross partnership fund to deliver key serious violence preventions programme

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- Implementation of preventative measures to reduce adversity and trauma

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- Embedding Contextual Safeguarding Across all community safety partners

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**OUTCOME:-** To ensure that all of the Community Safety Partnership Boards, Health and Well Being Board, Safeguarding and Local Criminal Justice Board, recognise their role in serious violence prevention and co-produce interventions that can have a long term impact to addressing the causes of serious violence.

## Interdependent Community Safety Strategies



# Where to get help and advice.

If you would like further help or advice in preventing serious violence or you are concerned about someone becoming affected by violence you can find support through:-

## County lines, gang or knife crime

You can get help and advice through:-

Safe in Warwickshire at <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/contact-us/>

Or email Jonathon Toy at [Jonathontoy@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathontoy@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Crimestoppers at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org> 0800 555 111 or

Fearless via <https://www.fearless.org/>

## Sexual Abuse and exploitation

If you want to report child abuse concern or would like advice in relation child safety, please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrens-social-care> or call **01926 414144**

Something's Not Right website provides helpful advice and support if you are concerned about exploitation <https://www.somethingsnotright.co.uk>

For support on sexual abuse you can find helpful advice and contact details at [https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/images/downloads/ID10815\\_WCC\\_SAAS\\_Directory\\_For\\_Service\\_Users\\_V5.pdf](https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/images/downloads/ID10815_WCC_SAAS_Directory_For_Service_Users_V5.pdf)

## Domestic Abuse

If you or someone you know is experiencing Domestic Abuse or Violence Against Women And Girls (VAWG)

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, **ring or text 999**.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have any speech impairment, **please dial Minicom/ Textphone 18001**

If you're worried a friend, family member, neighbour or colleague might be a domestic abuse victim you can report your concerns anonymously to Crimestoppers online here: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/personal-safety/domestic-abuse>





**Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service** - - If you are experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire, Refuge's domestic violence service can support you and your children to keep safe. Refuge is a county-wide service that provides support to women, men and children experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire.

T: **0800 408 1552**

W: <https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/refuge-warwickshire-domestic-violence-service/>



**Rights of Women** - Rights of Women aims to increase women's understanding of their legal rights and improve their access to justice enabling them to live free from violence and make informed, safe, choices about their own and their families' lives by offering a range of services including specialist telephone legal advice lines, legal information and training for professionals.

T: **020 7251 6577** (family law helpline – other numbers are available on the website)

W: <https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/>



**Galop** – Galop is a charity offering advice and support to LGBT+ people who have experienced violence or domestic abuse.

T: **0800 999 5428**

W: <http://www.galop.org.uk/>



**Mankind** – A confidential helpline is available for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence across the UK as well as their friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues and employers.

T: **01823 334 244**

W: <https://www.mankind.org.uk/>



**RoSA** - RoSA is an independent charity working throughout Warwickshire, offering free confidential support for anyone who has experienced rape, sexual abuse, or sexual violence.

T: **01788 551151**

W: <http://www.rosasupport.org>



**Safeline** - Safeline is a specialist charity providing a range of services across Warwickshire to support all survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

T: **01926 402498** (or text **07860 027573**)

W: <https://www.safeline.org.uk/>



**The Blue Sky Centre**

(Sexual Assault Referral Centre) –

The Blue Sky Centre is a SARC where any victim of rape or sexual assault will receive medical care, police intervention (if they wish to report the crime), and various other support services.

T: **01926 507805**

W: <https://blueskycentre.org.uk/>



**Respect Phonline** - Is your abusive behaviour costing you your relationship? Help is available.

T: **0808 802 4040**

W: <https://respectphonline.org.uk/>

**A full range of support options are available at:**

<https://www.talk2someone.org.uk/>

**Or check out the Safe In warwickshire website at:**

[https://safeinwarwickshire.com/support/.](https://safeinwarwickshire.com/support/)

