

VVE Strategy (Update); Overview and Scrutiny Panel

June 21st 2021



The Strategy



Our shared vision is that every child and young person in Tower Hamlets is kept safe from violence and exploitation and supported to achieve their aspirations

This Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy is our borough's proactive, partnership-based approach to tackling criminal and sexual exploitation and serious violence affecting children and young people.



The current picture



- Good direction of travel - Knife injuries reduced by 25% and knife possession reduced by 24% in 2020/21 compared to the previous year.
- But still work to be done - In 2020 / 21 there were 69 knife crime injury victims under the age of 25.
- In 2020/2021 there were 121 high risk cases referred to the exploitation team for support from CSC and or police
- Since August 2019 there have been over 300 exploitation risk assessments completed in LBTH where the risk has been assessed as medium or high



Three principles that underpin the strategy



1. **The rights, potential and wishes of children and young people;** listening to young people, building relationships
2. **A whole systems approach;** working with the whole family
3. **A rigorous approach to evidence;** using research, and learning from other organisations



Key Themes



Priority 1 – Prevention and Early Intervention - Children and young people at risk of exploitation and or children harmed through serious violence/gang involvement and their families are identified, get the support they need at the right time and are protected from serious harm as a result

Priority 2 - Protection and ongoing support for children and young people at the highest risk of harm and those who are survivors - Children and young people who are affected by exploitation and or harmed through serious violence/gang involvement receive appropriate, persistent support that helps to reduce the risks and harm they face, find alternative pathways and rebuild their lives

Priority 3 - Disrupting and pursuing those who pose a risk to children and young people - The risk to children and young people from those who seek to criminally and or sexually exploit them, or involve them in violence, is reduced



Priority 1 – Prevention and Early Intervention



Highlights:

1. Reduce the harm to children through early identification and intervention
2. Work alongside families and the community to build understanding of exploitation
3. Retain children and young people in education
4. Use audits, serious case reviews, national research to inform the improvement of practice



Priority 2 – Protection and ongoing support for children and young people at the highest risk of harm and those who are survivors



Highlights:

1. Further develop Complex Safeguarding including care planning with an understanding of contextual risk
2. Share Information
3. Ensure children's wishes, feelings and potential are central in decision making
4. Promote the full use of statutory and regulatory powers across the partnership



Priority 3 - Disrupting and pursuing those who pose a risk to children and young people



Highlights:

1. Support proactive intelligence gathering by the police
2. Promote proactive disruption planning and techniques across the partnership
3. Further develop the understanding of the complexity victim perpetrator cross over in peer exploitation
4. Support proactive pursuit of criminal prosecutions, focused on those who exploit children for profit or gain



What's next?



- Operational Delivery Plan
- Violent Crime Reduction Plan
- Training
- Community Communications Plan
- Complex Safeguarding (Harm outside the home)
- Network
- Youth Services Contract

