

Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plans - 2023

Ref		Violence and Vulnerability Actions	Borough Notes / Updates
Theme	Action No	Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Action	Tower Hamlets Update
1. GOVERNANCE	1	Set out the local co-ordination arrangements between the Community Safety Partnership and sub groups; Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards; Local Drugs Partnership; and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reducing violence aligned to the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) strategy.	The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) links in with other strategic partnership boards such as the Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board (SCP), Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB); through board chair representation at the CSP. Crossthematic agendas are discussed at the CSP (including violence reduction and implementing a Public Health response to violence reduction). TH have also developed a Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment in partnership with duty holders to support the public health approach to tackling violence and exploitation
	2	CSP Meeting agendas to include violence performance in line with the Serious Violence Duty and key priorities identified, domestic abuse and sexual offences, community tensions and stop and search as standing items.	In Tower Hamlets, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) discusses key violence data performance metrics which indicate how partners are doing in their joint efforts to address violence locally. The partnership are considering establishing a Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy group to ensure a detailed focus on tackling violence. Both Violence Against Women and Girls and violence performance data are a feature of the CSP KPIs which are discussed in detail at each board meeting. Agenda items on domestic abuse (DA) and sexual offences (SV), community tensions and stop and search are escalated from the relevant subgroups where performance data shows levels of violence, DA and SV as higher or lower than expected/usual. Stop and search data is discussed at the CSP annually, scrutinising performance and effectiveness.
	3	Implement a regular violence assessment meeting attended by Police BCU representative(s), relevant Local Authority colleagues, Probation and other suitable external partners. ToR and details of attendees/roles to be provided with action plan returns	A new Pro-Active BCU policing model was designed which includes a new Tasking and Coordination Cell (TCC) as part of it. This develops further how violence (and other crime) is assessed and what resources are then tasked against as well as monitoring the taskings and reviewing results. Currently specific and regular Police led violence assessment meetings are held Monday and Friday along with a twice daily Pacesetters seven days per week. Staff from Community Safety attend both meetings. Police also have a separate daily pan-London Violence Grip Meeting. The Exploitation Team and the MASH also have daily review meetings that include a review of violence. Staff from the Violence Reduction Unit (MOPAC) attended the daily Pacesetters meeting on 24th November 2022 and observed how violence is discussed and assessed. Terms of Reference (ToR) exist for all meetings and actions issued at each.
	4	Monthly Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group (or local equivalent) to include Violence Intelligence Briefing, tasking of partnership services to target offenders and hotspot locations; maintain and/or review a tracker to identify and manage events of risk, monitor and review community tensions and community feedback	The Police produce analytical products on a monthly basis for tactical assessments focusing on hotspots for violent crime and knife enabled crime. This includes a problem profile – victim, offender, location and time (VOLT) that is used to identify and set priority taskings. This is managed through the Tactical Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG) that meets monthly.
	5	New: Local action plans to be reviewed to ensure that plans to deliver the Serious Violence Duty complement Combatting Drugs Partnership work	The Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) have developed a comprehensive action plan which aligns with and complements the work of tackling violence. This work was conducted by the same team that is responsible for the Serious Violence Duty strategy and action plans have been developed in a way that ensures they compliment each other and do not duplicate work
	6	New: Work to tackle violence and exploitation should adopt the following principles: •A child first approach; with children at the heart, including through youth participation and co-design. •An evidence based approach; cognisant of YEF / EIF/ VRU research, and other sources •A trauma-informed and responsive approach.	Tower Hamlets, alongside serious violence duty holders, is currently developing a Serious Violence Strategy: in line with the the requirements of the new serious violence duty. As part of this, we held workshops that discussed the findings of the strategic needs assessment which makes suggestions/recommendations around the content of the strategic plan. The strategy includes our local approach to tackling serious violence and highlights our child first approach, our understanding of the local context through our needs assessment and our public health approach to tackling violence.
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2. ANALYSIS & ENFORCEMENT

1	<p>Analysis to support a public health approach to violence reduction in line with requirements of SVD including a Strategic Needs Assessment to understand patterns of violence and vulnerability, key local drivers, contexts where harm is occurring and communities/localities of greatest need, as well as a gap analysis against existing evidence of effective practice to inform the local action plan; sharing this with relevant local partners maximise effectiveness of the approach.</p>	<p>Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment - Tower Hamlets have developed a needs assessment, in line with the Serious Violence Duty. This has been submitted to the Violence Reduction Unit and is in the process of being published.</p>
2	<p>Use Safestats, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and wider public health data, social media intelligence, local drugs markets and local county lines analysis, plus any other relevant local authority data sources (i.e. Children's Social Care, housing information) to inform the strategic assessment analysis and partnership tactical delivery.</p>	<p>The CSP last developed a JSNA on Violence in 2019 which includes Knife Crime. Data from different sources, including police, hospital, ambulance and YOT. ISTV data was incorporated within this. The 2021 and 2022 strategic assessment makes use of data from the various sources ISTV publishes.</p> <p>Safestats has been used to inform the 2023 Serious Violence needs assessment which has supported decision making around tactical and partnership delivery.</p>
3	<p>Police tactical plan to be maintained to record, monitor and review key police tactical interventions and activity in support of police teams tasked with tackling violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •If using 4P's the different elements to read across into partnership plans. •MPS hotspot analysis to be shared with partners and subject of further analysis to support bespoke interventions •Problem Orientated Policing to be undertaken in key identified hotspots, collaborating with local authorities, housing providers, landowners, businesses and residents •Disruption of groups involved in violence and harm, and organised criminal networks, to have SRO/LRO for each BCU and have partnership input and analysis as required <p>Operation Dauntless and similar operations arranged to tackle VAWG offenders</p>	<p>Under the MPS Pro-Active review the VCTF and VSU's have been disbanded. Four new Pro-active syndicate teams will be developed to be tasked through the TCC as described above to tackle violence and other crimes. Analysis of crime hotspots in regularly produced and accessible. All organised Criminal Networks identified have a dedicated police lead sitting under the CE BCU Pro-Active Detective Chief Inspector.</p> <p>Regular pro-active operations targeting violent crime including VAWG across the Borough continue.</p>
4	<p>Multi-Agency Panel response to those at risk of or involved in violence and vulnerable to exploitation (in line with SVD definition and local priorities), including planning responses to risk locations; including Police, Community Safety, Adult and Children's Services, YOT, and Probation</p> <p>Meeting minimum of monthly with TOR and menu of options to manage risk through enforcement, prevention and diversion activities, in order to ensure that victims and offenders benefit from preventative support. Good practice would see annual reviews of the process of meetings and recurring themes identified by panels, to shape future work.</p>	<p>The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel addresses elements of this for young people at risk, but not in this detail. This needs to be developed. There is a monthly analytical product presented at MACE which discusses locations and themes and would discuss recurring themes. An annual police problem profile is produced in relation to exploitation and the first of these was for 2022-2023. MACE meets monthly but does only consider children to 18yrs. MACE is a PAN-London mandated meeting.</p>
5	<p>Ensure that analysis products capture violence impacting on children and young people in the borough, taking appropriate account of groups and organised criminal networks involved in harm to, and exploitation of children, young people, and those susceptible to crime and victimisation.</p> <p>To be reviewed in-depth every three years and refreshed annually (under CSP/SVD analysis)</p>	<p>The Council's Exploitation Service provide a quarterly data report which captures all serious youth violence incidents</p>
6	<p>Analysis of the needs and risks of women impacted by violence including as witnesses or bystanders; to assist in development of appropriate interventions.</p>	
7	<p>Training for front line staff, including partner agencies, on information sharing specific to violence and vulnerabilities so they are confident of what data can be shared and how.</p>	<p>Already embedded within various training programmes (VAWG/Exploitation/Gangs). This will be reviewed and updated</p> <p>Corporate mandatory training already includes data protection for LBTH staff</p>
8	<p>New: Seek to understand where disproportionality exists in (1) the impact of violence; (2) the access/take up of intervention programmes; and (3) the outcomes for communities. Consider what actions need to be taken locally to address any aspect of this disproportionality.</p>	<p>Tower Hamlets are developing a public health serious violence needs assessment which looks where there is disproportionality in the impact of violence. This builds on the work also of the youth justice partnership.</p>

		To note: See new VAWG section for action to record prevalence of Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence	N/A
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3. REDUCING ACCESS TO WEAPONS	1	Develop an agreed joint programme of actions to remove weapons and provide reassurance. This could include Trading Standards initiatives (e.g. knife or corrosive substance test purchases)	The Council's Trading Standards Service carry out a range of test purchases each quarter. This is across the range of age restricted goods including knives, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products and fireworks. Some quarters concentrate on alcohol and tobacco and then concentrate on knives the following quarter. There is a programmed series of test purchases throughout the year both our own council operations and joint partnership operations with the police.
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4. SAFEGUARDING AND EDUCATING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE Recognising the importance of safeguarding and working alongside	1	Work to ensure that education settings are safe inclusive places to learn, which build young people's resilience and have a trauma informed and anti-racist approach; and that children and young people have safe spaces and ways for them to speak with teachers or other appropriate staff on any concerns related to violence and vulnerabilities. This should include violence at home, in private environments and in public spaces, online, and within the educational setting from peers.	The Behaviour and Attendance Support Service (BASS) team contribute to the overall safeguarding strategy and they support schools to identify and reduce risk, including Harm outside the Home and criminal exploitation. BASS specifically address the needs of children at risk of exclusion from school and risks presented by poor attendance through a range of assessment and intervention activities. BASS support the training and development of school staff in order to ensure that our schools are trauma-informed and promote resilience through the training offer, which includes: Emotion coaching, Nurture and Emotionally Based school avoidance. The Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service leads on the Section 175/11 Safeguarding Audit process for all schools on behalf of the Local Authority and the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership. The audit tool supports schools in the self-assessment and continuous improvement of their safeguarding arrangements. There are audit thematic sections on Online Safety, Child on Child Abuse, Support and Intervention, and Human Rights/Equality. The Tower Hamlets Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) data continues to provide evidence that schools in Tower Hamlets, <u>in line with national trends</u> , are the second highest source of referrals to Children's Services: providing evidence of schools' effectiveness in the borough to identify children at risk of harm and experiencing harm including serious violence and youth violence.
	2	Schools to include violence impacting on young people within their safeguarding policies, as per Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) Ofsted guidance.	The Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service provides a Child Protection Policy guide to all schools in the borough each September. Each year the guidance/template is updated with the latest national safeguarding guidance and local safeguarding guidance. In the current policy template, there are individual sections on Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation. It is for each school to make use of the policy / template and it is their responsibility to ensure that their Child Protection Policy is made bespoke to their education setting including relevant safeguarding procedures.
	3	Demonstrable partnership work to minimise school exclusions (and managed moves in place of exclusions), create inclusive settings and support young people back into education, employment and training, with schools and academies exclusion policy reflecting the practice set out in DfE statutory guidance	BASS facilitate, co-ordinate and administer the local Fair Access arrangements, on behalf of the Behaviour and Attendance partnership and the LA. The arrangements are overseen by the Fair Access Panel, a multi-agency group which includes, Health, Social Care and Education representatives. The local Fair Access Arrangements are aligned with the DfE statutory guidance
	4	Monitor exclusions data and persistent absence (including any patterns of high rates of disproportionality for those with protected characteristics, and history or experience of Domestic Abuse) through the local Education department; with clear processes and evidence of challenge where data or practice indicate that exclusions do not align with statutory guidance; and work to support those with persistent absence through inclusive practice such as reduced timetable and considerations of factors such as mental health.	All suspensions and permanent exclusions are monitored centrally and reported on to the Director of Children's services as the statutory DCS, the DfE and individual schools. Analysis is completed to identify, action and address disproportionality. Schools or settings receive support and constructive challenge through the Council's education department and there is regular liaison with the DfE Regional Schools Commissioner to address any concerns raised in academies or free schools. School attendance is monitored regularly and schools are supported to address high levels of persistent absence through targeted intervention, statutory legal processes and advice and guidance from the Attendance Welfare Service. Good practice is regularly shared and evidence-based interventions, such as Emotionally Based School Avoidance programmes, rolled out through training and support.
	5	Due care and attention given to corporate parenting principles, and ensure trauma-informed support is provided to children in care and care leavers through diversion and preventative work that is bespoke to the risk of them becoming involved in serious violence or other unhealthy relationships, including intimate relations, friendships and familial relations; with clear pathways to mental health provisions and support	
	6	Collaborate with parents and carers, especially those deemed to be vulnerable, to effectively engage young people in diversionary activities and education; preventing harm through a culturally competent and trauma informed approach with an awareness of all types of violence that may be encountered or experienced.	The Council delivers parenting discussion groups, Triple P and Speak easy parenting programmes. These include information and discussion on grooming, exploitation and healthy relationships to build resilient families and provide opportunities to share experiences and access information and advice. Discussion group Programmes help families through Youth Justice & Young Peoples Services

places of education	7	Universal and targeted evidence-based programmes delivered across schools, including as part of PSHE offer. These should incorporate local safeguarding issues, healthy relationships, and self-esteem and misogynistic behaviour within educational settings - considering utilisation of the Mayor of London's VAWG toolkit - with mechanisms in place for partners within the borough and across London to support schools to assess quality and impact.	
	8	Offer targeted support to tackle high-risk, high-harm criminality that affects young people, by involving police officers in schools with an emphasis on engaging and educating young people (and their families as appropriate), with enforcement being used only when necessary.	In the past 12 months Police Safer Schools Officers have had a renewed focus on delivering violence related presentations to secondary schools, in Tower Hamlets we have delivered over 50 presentations the educational settings we cover. We have delivered presentations at assembly's on a variety of topics, including but not limited to; Knife crime, gangs, child exploitation, drugs, violent crime, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), personal safety, robbery prevention. Each school has a named officer embedded into it and whilst each officer does have more than 1 school the schools and pupils know who their schools officer is as details are displayed on school notice boards. In addition to this our Youth engagement team hold several events a week engaging with young people and delivering presentations and workshops, in the last 12 months our YET have delivered presentation on violence and staying safe to approx. 5000 young people.
	9	Bespoke, accessible support for students in PRU's/AP, including mentoring and transition back into mainstream education or on to further education, training, employment (e.g. VRU PRU mentoring scheme); and therapeutic support for children witnessing abuse/violence, which proactively promotes healthy relationships.	The Alternative Provision offer for young people in Tower Hamlets includes a high level of therapeutic and mentoring support. The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) is an Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force school, participates in VRU mentoring programmes and has a multi-disciplinary team including Social Care, CAMHS and family liaison to provide a wraparound programme of support and intervention to young people on short and long term placements in Alternative Provision
	10	Work to ensure that public locations are safe from all abuse and exploitation for children and young people through embedding a contextual safeguarding approach with partners; considering use of toolkits at https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/toolkits/ when risks are identified	A Harm outside the Home Framework has been developed and launched across the Council which includes our multi-agency approach to making local spaces and places safer for children in the borough. There is further development work to be done. There is a local referral process and a response.
	11	New: All schools across the borough to have Operation Encompass as standard practice, and ensure a pathway into local support services is in place for children identified as needing further support for domestic abuse they have experienced or witnessed, including where possible support for secondary trauma experienced through family members.	87 schools across the borough have been successfully signed up to Operation Encompass, resulting in 1058 referrals to date, data held by the police MASH team.
	12	New: Supporting the transition from Primary to Secondary School, through programmes that introduce Year 6 pupils to their new school and the area and provide mentoring and pastoral support; also raising awareness for parents of risks which children may encounter.	The Behaviour and Attendance Support Service (BASS) run, in partnership with other agencies such as Half Moon, Young Carers, THEWS, a transition programme for Year 6 pupils at risk of poor attendance or exclusion from school. In partnership with schools, the BASS ensure that there is appropriate planning, information-sharing and support in place to ensure transition to secondary is successful.
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	1	CSP to work with communities, young people, the VCS and businesses, to reduce violence, with appropriate programmes of community participation and consultation in both short-term responses including co-design and longer-term planning, bystander training, and regular engagement	The Community Safety Team works with communities through a programme of ward based events and surgeries by engaging local residents on what the Council is doing to tackle violence, reduce crime and drug dealing. Staff provide a platform via the community engagement bus that is placed within crime hotspots and also outside of schools, which enables residents to approach to raise their concerns with officers. The team also undertakes activities in community settings, faith based institutions like mosques and within voluntary sector organizations, to bring information directly to hard-to-reach groups and listen to their concerns and take reports where appropriate.
	2	Community Tensions Monitoring - Community Impact Assessment by MPS to be shared with and informed by CSP partners so it is based on multi-agency data, paying consideration to monitoring the trust and confidence of individuals and communities to report violence.	The Tension Monitoring Group ("TMG") is a community led, local authority facilitated group established to monitor, manage and address community tensions requiring a coordinated response from multiple services and/or local community stakeholders, (including the MPS). The TMG adopts a holistic multi-agency partnership approach to share information and intelligence and develop early interventions to manage imminent, current and future tensions or cohesion related issues. The TMG discusses community cohesion related tensions that may arise within the borough to help inform measured and unified preventative actions and responses.
	3	Facilitate community involvement in Stop & Search - including the monitoring of S60 by community representatives. This action should set out what the local arrangements are including where alternative arrangements are being piloted.	EC BCU are currently piloting a MOPAC scrutiny panel in Hackney. The BCU will be adopting best practice from that forum in Tower Hamlets. Efforts surrounding engagement in relation to stop and search continues, particularly with young people. Police colleagues are set to launch a stop and search QR code, working with youth justice colleagues in the Council. This will take searched individuals to the TH website where all information in relation to legislation, police powers and individuals rights will be made available. The 'trading places' also initiative continues.

5. WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE	4	Develop a local partnership response to serious violence critical incidents (or concerns of impending violence), making use of the VRU CSP Serious Incident Toolkit where appropriate. Consider applying to the VRU critical incident fund, for a small one off funding grant to directly support communities in the aftermath of a serious incident of violence (or the Pre-emptive CIF where concerns exist)	Locally, we have developed a menu of serious incidents and responses that a protocol will respond to. Working closely with the Metropolitan Police Digital Policing Command, specialist IT consultants and colleagues from other local authorities, we have assisted in the development and testing of a new Product in 2023 – Serious Incident Manager (SIM). SIM is a shared IT portal enabling selected LBTH colleagues to share live information from the local BCU Control Room from the initial stages of incident development to incident maturity. It allows for greater consistency of live incident information sharing police to Local Authority; faster notification of a developing incident enabling improved LBTH tactical responses; More detailed information of police action through all the stages of a maturing incident, improving internal LBTH coms and coordination; creates an audit trail. Enabling incident reviews, professional development and learning; real time risk assessment of LBTH public facing services (primarily those posts that involve uniform patrols); and improved community impact assessments and tension monitoring
	5	New: Develop links with housing providers, and encourage them to understand that their public-facing staff are likely to have interactions with those involved in or affected by violence; and therefore have a point of engagement, and that they can feed concerns into other violence-reduction partners.	The Community Safety Partnership includes membership from the newly insourced Housing directorate, which acts as the conduit with front line staff and RSL partners to co-ordinate actions around violence reduction.
	6	Work with communities and other partners in hyper local areas experiencing repeated higher levels of violence to develop capacity building to support incident response in the community, through a robust partnership approach, and to increase trust and collaboration between local communities, stakeholders, key local institutions, and statutory partners. (e.g. VRU My Ends, VRU Community Capacity Building programme)	The partnership is supporting another ambitious third sector Consortium bid for “My Ends” round 2. To support the proposed programme, the Council and partners will continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to facilitate multi-agency working at the strategic level by ensuring that the Consortium continues as a member of the Board. • to ensure that the Consortium is engaged at an operational level in our multi-agency operational tasking meetings, • The CSP & Council will co-ordinate and support local organisational work at a hyper-local level. • to support the valuable work with data analysis resources and expertise from within the Council. • We will also share relevant, real-time data about trends and patterns to inform the Consortium’s engagement and geographical focus to support critical incident management and recovery. • We will make sure that all children and young people receive support in a timely way by ensuring effective referral pathways into council • We will facilitate links with the universal offer to young people and families in Tower Hamlets, including our new ground breaking and expanded youth service offer. • We will ensure that learning from the Consortium’s approach working with young people and grass roots communities is a key element in our new violence reduction strategy and our public health approach to violence reduction.

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6. SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND VULNERABILITY Ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable	1	To have a multi-agency assessment and referral process through a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub or similar, with full partner sign-off of terms of reference and operating model. Local Safeguarding partners to ensure robust and relevant social care oversight for young people at risk of harm. Specialists such as IDVA/ISVA/VAWG Caseworkers are located within safeguarding hub, or have a similarly expedient access to information and response to victims.	There is a multi-agency referral process through MASH. The oversight of children at risk/harm of extra-familial harm comes through MACE.
	2	Those aged u.25 who are either victims of violence or vulnerable to exploitation, and all victims of Domestic Abuse, are provided appropriate referrals and packages of support across both statutory and voluntary provision. This could include to the London Victim and Witnesses Service which supports victims and witnesses of crime in London to cope and recover from their experiences, or the CouRAGEus project who provides specialist advocacy and support to young women and girls in London.	Those under 18 who are victims of violence and or exploitation and open to children’s social care have packages of support that are monitored through the child protection statutory processes. "Vulnerable to" would be provided with an Early Help offer where consent is provided and the child is referred.
	3	Those aged u.25 who are victims of violence, and all victims of Domestic Abuse, to have a trauma informed needs assessment, with referrals to therapeutic support. This could include Your Choice CBT programme or CAMHS (where the assessment determines that to be appropriate).	Your Choice is offered in LBTH to under 18's. 3 teams within supporting families are now trained in this way of working. Children have to consent to be part of this program.

	4	London Trauma and A&E centres to provide safeguarding information to local partnerships through an agreed referral mechanism and hence maximise opportunities for reachable moments and rapid service referral/support. (Details on Hospital-based services to be logged in plans so the VRU can understand the spread of these)	The Community Safety's hospital robbery and violence reduction project co-located at the Royal London Hospital's trauma unit. This service provides dedicated patient and casework support to those injured from violence and presenting in A&E. The objective is to eliminate further re-admissions by making lasting changes to help children and young people affected by knife crime and other forms of violence like street robbery. The project's staff also provide training to NHS colleagues to bring awareness of the local factors behind violence in order to guide approaches that are more effective, hyper local and collaborative. This includes working with relevant partner agencies to provide a whole system's approach that encompasses service user's needs by removing any barriers to holistic multi agency partnership working.
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7. POSITIVE DIVERSION FROM VIOLENCE Recognising that those at risk of involvement with violence should be offered interventions which help them move away from criminality	1	Those in the CJS committing violent crime offences (both pre-court diversion where appropriate, and post conviction) to be provided with bespoke community sentence interventions, including access to behavioural change programmes relevant to their offending.	Probation has access to the full range of accredited programmes in London. This includes Building Better Relationships (Domestic Abuse programme) and Thinking Skills Programme, which is designed for all types of offending where thinking skills are evidenced as a deficit. In addition to accredited programmes, London Probation delivers a suite of Structured Interventions for those who would benefit from intervention but aren't eligible for Accredited Programmes. This includes: Positive Pathways Plus: strengths and desistance based work targeting a range of domestic abuse and problematic relationships issues; Managing My Emotions: aims to strengthen emotional management, particularly anger.
	2	Support the effective operation of IOM, in line with the London IOM framework - to focus partner agencies on persistent, violent offenders who pose at least a medium risk of violent reoffending, including domestic abuse offences, as the core/fixed IOM cohort - through co-ordination of resources to proactively manage local priority offenders with partners, and make effective use of referrals into pan-London IOM violence reduction services	Integratreaed Offender Management (IOM) in Tower Hamlets is operating fully in line with the IOM Framework expectations. Monthly panel meetings are in place, and relevant managers from lead agencies review the IOM caseload regularly and consider relevant referrals. Added value is being provided to IOM through ADDER pathways focussing on those who's offending is being driven by substance misuse and violence, and those who are about to be released from prison.
	3	Probation Service bespoke licence conditions for violent offenders should include opportunities for training, employment, education and housing and to complete interventions specifically related to reducing the risk of violence, coercive and controlling behaviour, weapon offending and improved personal well-being.	Bespoke licence conditions are added to release licences in line with assessment of risk and need. These include licence conditions in relation to engaging with interventions addressing criminogenic need. For example, engagement with interventions designed to address domestic abuse or thinking skills or engagement with other services as directed by the supervising officer. Further, licence conditions are available to place robust restrictions on those involved in serious group offending, offending related to organised drug supply, and domestic abuse, eg exclusion zones, non-contact with criminal associates, disclosure of vehicle details and not driving without permission, not to have more than one mobile phone, curfews with electronically monitored tags. Management systems are in place to support monitoring of the effective use of licence conditions
	4	New: Children arrested for violence, robbery, weapons, or drug offences, are referred to support services on being bailed or NFA'd, in an attempt to prevent involvement in violence.	The police generate merlin reports regarding all children at point of arrest. This information is shared with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Team (MAST) and is reviewed by children's services and multi-agency partners to inform a threshold decision regarding the level of presenting need and type of response required. This could include a referral for preventative assessment/intervention (e.g. Early Help or Targeted Youth Support) or statutory assessment/intervention (e.g. Children's Social Care). In addition, the Youth Justice Service receives information each morning from the police regarding children arrested overnight which is discussed as part of a multi-agency daily intelligence briefing including representatives from children's services, youth justice, police and community safety.

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NEW SECTION: 8. Tackling	1	Maintain an up-to-date online list of local VAWG support services, including 'by and for' and specialist provision, and services for men and boys. This will include linking to the London Victim & Witness Service (LVWS) Service Directory https://londonvws.org.uk/directory/ , and information about out of hours services such as the 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/ .	LBTH VAWG Directory is on line and includes local key services including national services. Maintained and updated regularly.
	2	Consider cross-borough reciprocal agreements and links to pan-London provision, to ensure victims and perpetrators can access the support they need- when and where they need it. This might include referrals to appropriate support services and to relevant safeguarding forums such as the MARAC.	Reciprocal agreement in place with other local authorities led by Housing Directorate.
	3	Collaborate with partners to co-ordinate a local training offer for identifying, preventing and tackling VAWG for key professionals coming into contact with survivors and/or perpetrators, to be reviewed annually. This will likely include health, education, social care, housing, community engagement, and justice amongst others.	MOPAC funded VAWG Training and Awareness Officer is in place who leads on an extensive VAWG training brochure and the training offer is available to all and circulated widely, including external training offers by specialist services and organisations. Quarterly management and monitoring of training occurs at VAWG Steering Group. Annual returns maybe be collated if needed.
	4	Children's Social Care to ensure policies are in place regarding working with and assessing perpetrators of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG when safeguarding children and the non-abusive parent. These should be developed in consultation with national and/or existing local services who are specialists in working with perpetrators of VAWG.	Positive Change Service is the CSC Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme which has also recently been extended. An additional DA Perpetrator Project was funded by Home Office to Tower Hamlets and 7 other boroughs.

Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable and recognising the importance of safeguarding and working alongside key partners.	5	Local Areas should refer to existing MOPAC-led Needs Assessments for victims/survivors of VAWG and collaborate with future Needs Assessment so that there is an accurate picture of local need, demand and provision.	VAWG Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is taking place which will help inform the boroughs fourth VAWG and Womens Safety Strategy. This will include collating primary and secondary information including MOPAC led needs assessment. All requests from MOPAC and London Councils to engage in consultation is fully delivered. The womens safety element is a new development in the strategy and considers risk and safety outside the home. The Council also also researched and published a report
	6	Local Areas to commit to the prevention of the rise in harmful attitudes towards women and girls including VAWG in an on-line context; for example through Education and Campaigns.	Extensive local and national campaigns are promoted in borough such as Domestic Abuse No Excuse, White Ribbon Campaigns, Ask Angela, WAVE, misogyny training, outreach and communications to targeted communities via various means beyond just the usual channels and posters but also social media, in Schools, PSHE lessons, School Bulletins. Co producing a misogyny campaign with night time economy businesses in collaboration LB Hackney and the City. Male allyship programme also in place.
	7	VAWG has recently been made a Strategic Policing Requirement, from which an annual Strategic Threat Risk Assessment (STRA) will be conducted. Local areas are therefore advised to reflect this in their local CSP priorities and ensure Safeguarding policies and procedures are joined up (for example, MARAC, MAPPA, MASH amongst others), reviewing annually following publication of the STRA.	All Safeguarding operational and strategic groups such as MARAC, CSP, MARAC, Social Care meetings such as MASH are joined up with multi agency steering groups whereby VAWG is a regular item. Annual strategic assessments review the work of these. Policies and Procedures around safeguarding encompass VAWG.
	8	Within local VAWG and Safeguarding Strategic priorities, ensure that tackling VAWG in Public Spaces and the Night Time Economy is included.	This is included in our VAWG Delivery Plan and VAWG Strategy. Training, outreach and campaigns include VAWG in public spaces and NTE/businesses. Virtual Women's Walks taken place, a report by Public Health is being developed. Extensive obile unit outreach by THEO's, Licensing Team and Police, programme of work around public spaces including parks and open spaces.
	9	Local Areas to consider how disproportionality impacts different sections of their local community and ensure they take an intersectional approach to developing VAWG responses and commissioning the provision of local services. This will include taking account of the needs of people as both victims and perpetrators, black and minoritised people, people with disabilities, older people, those who are LGBTQ+ and those with insecure immigration status or no recourse to public funds (NRPf).	Intersectional approach embedded across VAWG Strategy, delivery plan, training, targeted outreach and in commissioning. Commissioned providers are required to report on all equalities strands and address any disproportionality. Main commissioned provider, the IDVA service includes ensuring Bengali and Somali speaking workers and translation/interpretation policies exist. VAWG JSNA/Strategy will focus even more so on marginalised groups.
	10	Work with organisations within the health economy, including Public Health Departments and NHS Trusts to take a Public Health Approach to VAWG.	Public Health are leading on VAWG JSNA and working with partners to sign up to VAWG Health Pledge.
	11	Ensure processes are in place to collect data on Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (as a specific form of domestic abuse), in order to gain a better understanding of prevalence.	Children Social Care collect data on this and also have held various events and projects to raise awareness on this field. Domestic Homicide Reviews analysis included this and serious case review was conducted further to a child to parent violence homicide. Recommendations from this review completed including reducing age of victim referrals to MARAC from 18 to 16 years.

Theme		OPTIONAL ACTIONS - Current wording	New wording (Differences in red. If wording is unchanged then current wording remains)	Notes / borough updates (Full template will be released ahead of February 2024 deadline for updates)
GOVERNANCE	1	Hold an annual Local Leadership event (Elected members, Statutory Officers, CVS and local Businesses) to look at 'wicked issues' to ensure multi-agency response, e.g. Building community trust in statutory services.		
		Original Actions	New wording	Notes
ANALYSIS & ENFORCEMENT	1	Use of intelligence-led Stop and Search including use of S60 in accordance with NPCC guidance.		
	2	Local Authority enforcement through use of all enforcement assets to target locations and offenders, for example CCTV, Enforcement Officers, Parking Enforcement, removal of abandoned vehicles		
	3	Licensing - If a specific venue is identified as being associated with an incident(s) of violence, and it is Licensed (For example a Pub, Nightclub, Betting Shop, etc), seek to contact & utilise the expertise of Local Council & Police Licensing Teams in order to mitigate this risk. These teams can offer a range of partnership & enforcement options in order to improve safety at the venue and reduce said violence. (Potential Enforcement Options include – Review of Licence, Emergency Closure Powers and prosecutions under the Licensing or Gambling Act).		
		Original Actions	New wording	Notes
REDUCING ACCESS TO WEAPONS	1	Local process where weapons can be safely disposed of, without repercussions such as knife amnesties or knife bins	Local process where weapons can be safely disposed of, without repercussions such as knife amnesties or knife bins, with a running log and Action Plans updated with locations	
	2	Conduct weapon sweeps such as Community Weapon Sweeps, or sweeps by staff or partners agencies e.g. LFB, housing providers/estate managers, refuse collectors	Conduct weapon sweeps such as Community Weapon Sweeps, or sweeps by staff or partners agencies e.g. LFB, housing providers/estate managers, refuse collectors; maintaining a log of activity.	
	3	Use of Responsible retailer agreements- https://nbcc.police.uk/guidance/knife-retailers-toolkit		
	4	Physical improvements of localities to design out opportunities to store weapons		
	5	Target Hardening of retailers to prevent shoplifting of knives		
	6	Work collaboratively with local authority trading standards teams and conduct U18 and Challenge25 Test Purchase operations.		
		Original Actions	New wording	Notes
	1	Intelligence sharing and tension monitoring between education establishments and local authority through named safer schools officers	Intelligence sharing and tension monitoring between education establishments and local authority, involving schools-based officers	
	2	Promote the London Needs You Alive Campaign within local prevention awareness campaigns		
	3	Serious Youth Violence to be an agenda item at local DCS/Headteacher fora at least annually	Children at risk, harm, or vulnerable to exploitation , to be an agenda item at local DCS/Headteacher fora at least annually	
	4	Promotion of membership of youth organisations e.g. Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme, London Fire Brigade Cadet Scheme, Scouts local voluntary sector organisations		

SAFEGUARDING AND EDUCATING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE Recognising the importance of safeguarding and working alongside places of education	5	Support key transition stages in a young person life that can increase their vulnerability (changing schools, returning to education from young offenders institution; leaving care)		
	6	Adoption of a restorative justice approach	Adoption of a restorative practice approach	
	7	Demonstrable consideration by safeguarding and the community safety partnership of parental engagement approach; active strategies for engagement, including socio-education offer, across key partners, especially within schools, PRUs and colleges.		
	8	Recognising the key role of parents and carers, and the extensive evidence on benefits of parental support and education, clear socio-education offer on local risks and themes relating to youth violence (in particular, grooming, exploitation and healthy relationships) as part of an effective prevention offer for children and young people	Recognising the key role of parents and carers, and the extensive evidence on benefits of parental support and education, clear socio-education offer on local risks and themes relating to violence impacting on young people (in particular, grooming, exploitation and healthy relationships) as part of an effective prevention offer for young	
	9	Support work to promote healthy relationships to help address gender based violence in schools (e.g. VRU Tender programme)		
	10	Equalities impact of programmes implemented are assessed and considered to ensure diverse needs of young people, families and communities are responded to contextually, with potential negative impact fully understood .		
	11	A clear partnership response to identifying, assessing and responding to extra-familial harm is documented within a safeguarding partnership strategy; tools to effectively deliver the strategy are available to practitioners and professionals as recommended by Ofsted.		
	13	Structural issues which contribute to disproportionalities within violence, service access and school exclusions are understood by the partnership, and clear action to address are outlined within key strategic departments and multi-agency plans, as well as public sector equality planning .		
	14	Local safeguarding partnerships coordinate efforts to ensure local Early Help processes and referral pathways, and everyone's role within them, are clear and easily accessible to parents/carers, schools, PRUs and college staff.		
	15	Adoption/promotion of initiatives (such as a school watch) to promote safe journeys to/from school for children and young people.		
16	Deliver a Blue Light Collaboration to year 8 students in schools covering topics such as serious youth violence, CSE.	Deliver a Blue Light Collaboration (MPS, LAS and LFB) to year 8 students in schools covering topics such as violence impacting on young people, CSE, online safety, basic first aid, and fire safety .		
17	Dedicated non-teaching staff to support students outside of the formal structure of a student-teacher relationship.			
18	Schools to consider use of knife-detecting wands, if appropriate to their risk profile and engagement approach ; contacting their Safer Schools Team if a wand is needed.			
		Original Actions	New wording	Notes
	1	Map key communities and leaders, review every six months.		
	2	Consider use of the Business Community Safety Toolkit, to support sharing of good practice between businesses in preparing for or responding to an incident of violence https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/business_community_safety_toolkit_b.pdf		

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE	3	Promote Fearless as a crime information source and option for providing information about violence anonymously https://www.fearless.org/en		
	4	Develop a communications plan which engages communities in the programme, and supports a reduction in fear of crime through providing honest and positive messages about achievements and reduces risk of stigma and discrimination.		
	5	Involve young people within local violence prevention work, through both established forums such as youth councils/parliaments, youth Independent Advisory Groups and informal grassroots pathways including through social media platforms.		
	6	Collaborate with partners to initiate a parents network that communicates on a regular basis to disseminate information about problems/ issues in the borough, to consult with them about contemporary parenting challenges and possible solutions and to ensure no-one feels alone in confronting these challenges.		
	7	Police to work with local communities at a ward level, governed by ward panels, with the introduction of a new mandatory ward panel priority that must focus on violence or drivers of violence.		
		Original Actions	New wording	Notes
SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND VULNERABILITY Ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable	1	Agree a common Youth Violence risk assessment and management framework. Consult and agree on a best practice based, borough wide, youth violence risk assessment and management framework. Having established a framework disseminate and embed in council and partner practices and processes through training and briefing.	Agree a common risk assessment and management framework for violence impacting on young people . Consult and agree on a best practice based, borough wide, youth violence risk assessment and management framework. Having established a framework disseminate and embed in council and partner practices and processes through training and briefing.	
	2	Provide front line staff within partner agencies with trauma and attachment training, in order to support practitioners working with young people to understand the 'Trauma Informed Approach'. This approach informs staff of how trauma in early life may affect current behaviour .		
	3	Ensure there is a robust mechanism to identify and manage any risk when young people move to different areas by including effective handover between agencies .		
		Original Actions	New wording	Notes
POSITIVE DIVERSION FROM VIOLENCE Recognising that those vulnerable to involvement with violence should be	1	Young offenders to have conditions/requirements tailored to the nature of the violent offending and the service provision available locally through the YOT.	Children in the Youth Justice System to have conditions/requirements tailored to the nature of violence offences and the service provision available locally through the YOT.	
	2	Work with the Voluntary Community Sector to develop and deliver a range of services that support young people and enhance the overall approach to tackling serious youth violence	Work with the Voluntary Community Sector to develop and deliver a range of services that support young people and enhance the overall approach to tackling violence impacting on young people	
	3	Partnership support for Police applications for post-conviction Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) for repeat knife offenders, by including positive requirements in sentences and orders to support the opportunity for change.		

offered interventions which help them move away from criminality	4	Using ASB early intervention options to manage ASB, potentially preventing future criminal behaviour, responding to offending behaviour, increasing intelligence, highlighting safeguarding issues and providing opportunities prior to any enforcement .		
	5	Co-ordination between Probation and other partners to ensure robust pre-release plans, in order to provide support for a positive transition from secure estate back into the community.		Resettlement Panels
		Original Actions	New wording	Notes
NEW SECTION: Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable and recognising the importance of safeguarding and working alongside key partners.		New section	Currently no suggestions of VAWG-related optional actions.	

EMERGING THEMES::

For 2023 the VRU is also asking boroughs to provide information on work that is being carried out under these areas, which are mentioned in the VRU's own strategy. While we have not yet included any specific actions in relation to these, increasing our knowledge would help us assess how we could focus and co-ordinate work in the future.

This section asks boroughs to provide information on any work they are undertaking in these spaces.

Theme	BOROUGH UPDATES
REDUCING ONLINE HARMS	
UNIVERSAL YOUTH WORK to support the safety of children and young people	
PARENT/CARER NETWORKS and systems of support	
LEARNING AND SHARING from research, evidence and insight, and self-assessments	