

# Serious Violence Duty

## London Borough of Tower Hamlets



# Overview



- New statutory duty arising from the Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022
- Objective is to bring about the ambitions set out in the Government’s 2018 ‘Serious Violence Strategy’ and embed a ‘public health’ approach to violent crime as per the WHO definition
- As set out in the [statutory guidance](#) the duty requires *“specified authorities to work together to prevent & reduce serious violence, including identifying the types of serious violence that occur in an area, the causes of that violence and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing it...”*
- Duty holders: local authorities, the police, youth offending teams, Integrated Care System (NHS), probation, and the fire service. Certain organisations have a “duty to cooperate” e.g. education establishments
- Amendment to the 1998 Crime & Disorder Act to make serious violence a specific responsibility of Community Safety Partnerships



# Deliverables



- Duty comes into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, with compliance targeted within one year
- Key delivery requirements as set out in Government guidance:
  - Agree a partnership structure e.g. CSP, SAB, HWBB.
  - Develop a strategic needs assessment
  - Agree definition of SV, with evidence based analysis of the causes of serious violence in the area and effective data sharing
  - Develop and implement a partnership strategy to prevent & reduce serious violence with annual review (can be existing product)



## Local considerations



- Relationship to the pan-London approach led by MOPAC and the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) e.g. minimum standard definition of violence
- Develop and propose options for achieving compliance:
  - Confirm partnership arrangements e.g. CSP and sub group
  - Initial review of existing data sets e.g. the Strategic Assessment, to identify key trends and form basis of SV definition
  - Strategy development and links to existing work e.g. CSP Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan, HWB Strategy
- How to effectively factor in different perspectives on violence offered by key partnership forums HWBB, CSP, SAB and THSCP



## Definition of Serious Violence

- Government guidance sets out types of violence that *should* be included in any definition e.g. domestic abuse, sexual offences, but no definition provided
- London VRU guidance proposes a minimum standard for boroughs to expand on:

*Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.*

- Duty holders should use the flexibility provided in the guidance to enhance their definition taking account of local need, considering the factors set out in section 13 (6) of the PCSC



# Next steps



- Nothing needed from HWBB at this stage, other than to note SVD as a key piece of partnership work for 23/24
- Engaging with all duty holders to identify leads and ensure coordination of planning activity
- Developing options for delivering 4 requirements (partnership structure, needs assessment, definition, strategy)
- When options agreed, confirm timelines to satisfy Government deadlines e.g. published strategy by the end of Jan 2024

