

<b>9 December 2022</b>		<b>ITEM: 8</b>
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>		
<b>Progress Report on Youth Violence and Vulnerability</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> all	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-key	
<b>Report of:</b> Dr Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health Michelle Cunningham, Community Safety Partnership Manager		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Dr Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

This report is to provide the Health & Wellbeing Board an update on progress of the recommendations in the Annual Public Health Report of Youth Violence and Vulnerability.

The annual report of the Director of Public Health on Youth Violence and Vulnerability in 2020 can be found [here](#). It supported Thurrock in developing a Public Health approach to violence. A Violence & Vulnerability Board was established to oversee delivery of the recommendations therein. Chaired by the DPH, it brought together all relevant agencies to support young people and intervene with a preventative approach before they are groomed by gangs and go on to commit offences, and will provide a long lasting solution.

The majority of recommendations within that report have now been delivered, or are underway, and the action plan has been revised in line with this and the Serious Violence Duty. The governance to deliver on this work has thus been reviewed and it has been agreed that the overarching ownership of this action plan is moved from the Violence and Vulnerabilities Board to the Community Safety Partnership Board.

Thurrock remains part of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Board which recognises the significant impact that serious violence associated with gang activity is having on the communities of Essex. This has brought access to considerable additional funding for early prevention and intervention activity.

### **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 That members of the committee review the ongoing long term preventative approach to the Violence & Vulnerability agenda.**

- 1.2 **That members contribute to the delivery of this agenda ensuring that communities have a voice within this agenda.**
- 1.3 **That members note the changed governance arrangements for this work.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

### 2.1 National Context:

In March 2019 the Home Office announced a Serious Violence Fund to help tackle serious violence in 18 areas worst affected of which Essex was identified as one of the Violence Reduction Unit areas. This funding was to support Surge operation activity by Essex Police and to set up a Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) in Essex to build capacity to tackle the root causes of serious violence by bringing together Police, local government, health, education professionals, community leaders and other key partners to provide a multi-agency response to local drivers of serious violence.

### 2.2 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit

As a partnership the focus of the Essex VVU is to address issues which will lead to a reduction in serious violence – namely to:

- Reduce hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25
- Reduce knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25
- Reduce all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives

This will be achieved by:

- Identifying and tackling organised crime gangs, County Lines and drug supply.
- Delivering a proactive, robust local enforcement programme in partnership with communities.
- Reducing the risk of young or vulnerable people being exploited by gangs and help those involved in gangs to break away.

The Essex Violence and Vulnerability Round Table is chaired by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst and attended by members and Directors from Thurrock.

The Essex Violence and Vulnerability operations board is attended by officers from YOS, CSP and Public Health for Thurrock.

There are 5 work streams to deliver on the focus areas:

1. Voice of Communities
2. Targeting interventions
3. Developing the Workforce
4. Raising Awareness

## 5. Improving our understanding.

### 2.3 Thurrock Structure and related priorities

The response to Serious Youth violence in Thurrock (16-24 year olds) has been structured around the 2020 Annual Public Report by the then Director of Public Health on Youth Violence and Vulnerability. This takes a public health approach to serious youth violence and vulnerability and makes 32 recommendations within the following 4 categories:

1. **Surveillance** – led by Public Health and Childrens Social Care
2. **Primary Prevention** –through Brighter Futures
3. **Secondary Prevention** –through the Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) group
4. **Tertiary Prevention** –through the Youth Crime Governance Board and Community Safety Partnership Executive

The Thurrock Violence and Vulnerability Board has been convened to bring together representation from the 6 key strategic partnership boards, namely; the Community Safety Partnership, the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Youth Crime Governance Board, Brighter Future's Partnership Board and the Health and Well Being Board in order to provide governance for the coordination and implementation of these recommendations and ensure a cross cutting public health approach to **youth violence and vulnerability**.

### 2.4 Safeguarding and Criminal Gang Activity

Protecting children and vulnerable adults from the risks in relation to criminal gang activity should be seen as part of the Councils wider safeguarding duties, and is the same as protecting them from any other harms.

## 3. **Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 presents a summary of action on the Community Safety Partnership Priority 3 of the CSP: Violence and Vulnerability: Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence.

## 4. **Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 Scrutiny by members in relation to this priority will ensure that Thurrock Council is in a strong position to fulfil the new duty which will be placed upon it in relation to serious violence<sup>1</sup>. This duty on public bodies will ensure relevant services work together to share data and knowledge and allow them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence altogether.
- 4.2 No agency will resolve this issues on its own and we need to work with communities and ensure that they are part of the solution.

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[draft guidance - serious violence duty \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

4.3 To enable members' oversight of identified actions to ensure Thurrock Council responds appropriately to the challenges posed by criminal gang activity and delivers on the recommendations within the Annual Public Health Report.

## **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 The purpose of bringing this report to HWBB is for ongoing oversight by members.

## **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

**People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
- Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

6.2 This work will form a key part of delivering on the draft priorities within the Health and Well Being Strategy 2022/26 and is being consulted on as part of the development of that strategy: see <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock-hwb-strategy-refresh>

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Senior Management Accountant**

The Home Office via the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has provided Violence and Vulnerability funding for Localities work and work with those at risk of High Harm. Thurrock Community Safety Partnership has been allocated £123k of this for 22/23 and £92k for 23/24 in order to fund a range of projects.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke, Governance Lawyer & Deputy Monitoring Officer**

When the new Serious Violence Duty (“New Duty”) is fully implemented it will require the Council and a range of other authorities including, youth offending teams, schools, local health boards, and policing bodies, to collaborate and share data and intelligence to prevent and reduce serious violence in Thurrock.

They will also need to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in Thurrock, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those issues.

Prisons, youth custody agencies and educational authorities will be under a separate duty to work with these core partners or each other, should they wish to do so. There will be requirements to consult all such institutions in their area as they prepare their strategy.

Draft statutory guidance has been published and consulted on [Serious Violence Duty: draft guidance for responsible authorities \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101444/Serious_Violence_Duty_draft_guidance_for_responsible_authorities_accessible_version.pdf) to support the implementation of the new duty and provides advice on how the New Duty can be met effectively. The new arrangements as outlined in the report can be put in place to ensure that the Council is sufficiently prepared in advance of full implementations of the New Duty.

The Government aim to publish the final statutory guidance before planned commencement of the New Duty early in 2023. Secondary legislation will be brought forward to make further provision for or in connection with the publication and dissemination of strategies and conferring functions on local policing bodies.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**  
**Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct implications in relation to diversity and equality from this report. Monitoring of the ethnicity of young offenders, and any identified learning disabilities is in place through the Youth Crime Governance Board and actions to address any identified disproportionality put in place

## 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

This report will support members in ensuring that they are delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

- 8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

[draft guidance - serious violence duty \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Annual-public -health-report- Violence & Vulnerability](#)

- 9. Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1: Report to Health and Well Being Board on Community Safety Partnership Priority 3 of the CSP: Violence and Vulnerability

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