

Serious Violence Duty

October 2023

The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) was introduced by government through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, and commenced on 31st January 2023.

- There are a number of requirements for CSPs to fulfil together:
 - Undertake an ***evidence-based analysis*** of the causes of serious violence in the area and establish effective data sharing
 - Develop a ***strategic needs assessment*** based on the analysis
 - Develop and implement a ***strategy*** with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area, to be reviewed every year

The responsible authorities (also known as ‘duty holders’) in the Serious Violence Duty are:

- The police
- Fire and rescue authorities
- Justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- Health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- Local authorities

The London Guidance advises that Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in London, is defined as:

- *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.*

- The overall volume of violence with injury in Haringey has remained **relatively stable** in the short and medium term.
- Haringey is now ranked around **mid-table** in London for the number of non-domestic violence with injury offences.
- Haringey's rate of domestic violence with injury is currently **2.5 per 1,000 pop.n.**, which is slightly above the London average of 2.4 per 1,000 pop.n.
- The rate of sexual offences in the borough is currently **3.0 per 1,000 pop.n.**, which is 11% above the London average.
- Significant increases have been noted in the past 12-months in violence affecting young people, such as **serious youth violence (+36%)**, **knife crime (+18%)** and **robbery offences (+18%)**.

- Haringey contributes a disproportionately large amount of the total knife crime, robbery and firearms related violence in London.
- There is a significant geographical correlation between **violent** crime in Haringey and **drug** related disorder.
- Violence is not distributed equally across the borough and significant concentrations are noted in areas with high levels of **deprivation**.
- Key violence generators and attractors in the borough include **transport hubs** (train, tube and buses), **parks** and **open spaces** and busy **high street** locations.
- Sexual offending and domestic abuse offences tend to take place within residential settings most often.

- As part of the Serious Violence Duty, each CSP is required to collate a summary of the strategic approach being taken to address violence in the borough.
- The strategic summary will outline the key workstreams being delivered and will help to identify gaps in provision.
- For Haringey, along with the Community Safety Partnership, the North Area Violence Reduction Group (NAVRG) will be utilised as the delivery mechanism for the Serious Violence Duty.
- Additionally, the existing Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan is currently being refreshed, with a new format due to be published by the London VRU in early 2024. This will be utilised as the delivery action plan for the Serious Violence Duty, and progress will be reported against this regularly.

- That all partners note the contents of the report which provides an overview of the Serious Violence Duty and the headline findings from the Needs Assessment.
- That all partners agree to continue to support the delivery and finalisation of the Serious Violence Duty for Haringey.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - 1. Do the headline findings reflect the experience of your area of business?***
 - 2. What can your area of business do to contribute towards violence reduction?***
 - 3. What can the CSP do collectively to address violence in Haringey more effectively?***