

Offensive Weapon Homicide Review Pilot

Co-design and Pilot Project Overview

Context

- The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill includes provisions for local safeguarding partners to conduct a homicide review following the death of an individual aged 18 or over where offensive weapons have, or are believed to have, been involved. The Bill was introduced in Parliament on 9 March with Royal Assent expected early in 2022.
- Of the estimated 510 recorded homicides in 2019 that did not meet the criteria for an existing review, approximately half of these involved an offensive weapon (251) and would be subject to the new offensive weapons homicide review.
- The intention is that new reviews will improve the national and local understanding of causes, patterns, victims and perpetrators of violence; improve the response to serious violence on a national and local scale; and save lives.
- Once the legislation has Royal Assent in early 2022 (expected), the Home Office intends to run an 18-month pilot of the Homicide Review process in local authorities with high levels of offensive weapons homicides.
- Haringey along with Enfield, Brent, Southwark and Lambeth have been confirmed as a participant boroughs in the pilot.

Project Overview

- In preparation for the pilot early next year, Crest Advisory and Gate One will be working with the Home Office to ensure that the Homicide Review Process is one that works for the pilot areas, and eventually, the broader local partnerships across England and Wales.
- To deliver this, they have begun a programme of engagement with national and local stakeholders which to facilitate the co-design of the Homicide Review process.
- This will involve several key service areas who have experience and knowledge around homicide review processes including Children's, adults, Community Safety, Public Health etc and there will be a need for colleagues to participate to ensure we are fully involved in the shaping of the new review processes

Next Steps

- A series of consultations and engagement activities will be delivered whilst the Bill makes its way through Parliament in Summer and Autumn 2021.
- We have recently responded to a call for evidence and going forward Haringey along with the other pilot boroughs will be contacted to help shape the new review process.
- Co-design will be achieved by sharing experiences with the existing statutory reviews and thoughts on what the new process should look like through one or more of the following activities:
 - A structured interview or focus group
 - A targeted survey
 - To provide relevant documentation and information on current statutory review processes and related procedures
 - Co-design workshops
 - Once the consultants have gathered insights in the first stage of engagement, they will be returning to stakeholders to assist in the design of the final product for the pilots