

Serious Violence Duty

February 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.

- The duty places several requirements upon CSPs, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and production of a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.

- 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 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 SNA is designed to identify and quantify the extent of serious violence that takes place, as well as looking at potential causes and drivers of violence. It should also highlight the types of individuals most at risk of violence, either as victims or perpetrators, uncover hotspot locations and help to improve understanding of trends.
- The SNA will require data from a range of partners, as well as qualitative information to provide context. This data and information will then need to be collated and analysed to generate an overall assessment of serious violence. An effective SNA will also highlight gaps in information or a lack of data in particular areas.
- Once the SNA has been completed, it should be used as the evidence base to produce the local SVD strategy, which will outline the approach that will be taken to addressing the issues highlighted within the SNA.

There is a requirement under the duty to develop a strategy following the SNA, to be reviewed annually. It should comprise a range of actions that the partnership will take forward to prevent and reduce the serious violence issues and drivers that have been identified.

- The guidance states the strategy could include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a) A high level (non-sensitive) summary of the strategic need's assessment.
 - b) How the chosen partnership will work to discharge its duties under the legislation to prevent and reduce serious violence.
 - c) Actions (including early intervention preventative action) to be undertaken by the whole partnership area to prevent and reduce serious violence and support victims.
 - d) Actions or bespoke plans by sector/partner.
 - e) Wider actions (where appropriate cross boundaries or nationally).
 - f) Ongoing engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, young people and local business.
 - g) How the identified action enhances or complements existing action/or arrangements within the local area.
 - h) Identified funding streams or resources that can be used by the partnership for prevention and reduction activities.
 - i) Date for review/annual review mechanism.
 - j) Where applicable the annual assessment of the partnership's performance against the previous years' strategy.

- **Key deliverables:**

- January 2023 - Funding application to support delivery – ***SUBMITTED***
- April 2023 - Delivery plan for local SVD activity to be agreed with London VRU
- By late 2023 / early 2024 – SVD Strategic Needs Assessment to be completed
- Early 2024 – SVD Strategy to be finalised and published
- January 2025 – Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy to be reviewed.

- That all partners note the contents of the accompanying report which provides an overview of the new Serious Violence Duty.
- That all partners agree, to support the Serious Violence Duty strategic needs assessment development by encouraging engagement, data and information sharing across internal and external networks stakeholders, and partners.
- That all partners agree to contribute to the strategy and action plan as they develop, following completion of the needs assessment.
- **Discussion Point:**
 - ***What can all partners bring and contribute to the Serious Violence Duty?***