



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	<i>Serious Violence Duty</i>
Report to	<i>Crime Scrutiny 12th Sept 2023</i>
Date of Meeting	
Cabinet Member	<i>Councillor Gina Needs</i>
Executive Director	<i>Tony Theodoulou</i>
Report Authors	<i>Andrea Clemons/ Sarah Gilroy</i>
Ward(s) affected	
Classification	<i>Part 1 Public</i>
Reason for exemption	N/A

Purpose of Report

- 1) The report is provided to update the Crime Scrutiny Panel on progress locally in meeting the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.
- 2) **Main Considerations for the Panel**
 - The Panel are asked to note the report, plus the challenging time frames and receive a presentation on the work completed to date.
 - Be aware of the process some of which is standardised for all London Boroughs.
 - Receive summaries of information resulting from the strategic needs assessment.

- Provide initial comments on the findings.
- Note that a budget has been assigned to assist with the analysis and engagement.
- Note the various opportunities made available to residents to engage with the process.
- Note the final stages of the process and the publication date of the resulting Strategy at the end of January 2024.

3) Background and Options

The Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, requires specified authorities to work together at local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) areas to prevent and reduce serious violence¹. The responsible authorities (also known as ‘duty holders’) are:

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

In Enfield, the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB), which is Enfield’s CSP, is leading on the borough’s implementation and compliance with the duty. Duty holder authorities must fulfil a number of key requirements:

- Undertake an evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence in their area
- Develop a strategic needs assessment based on the analysis
- Develop and implement a strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area, which will need to be reviewed every year. The first strategy must be published by 31 January 2024.

To ensure a consistent approach across London, the London Violence Reduction Unit has produced guidance and templates for the strategic needs assessment and strategy.

In addition to the standardised approach required by the London VRU, they have commissioned an independent organisation, CREST Advisory to conduct some discussions with local boroughs around readiness for the Serious Violence Duty. They concluded that “London is in very strong position to build on existing work and maximise opportunity from the serious violence duty.”

¹ The SSCB has agreed to adopt the London Violence Reduction Unit’s definition of serious violence: *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. Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.*

Working group

The SSCB have delegated the delivery to an established working group with “duty holder” organisations attending. This group reports at every SSCB meeting to update on progress.

The Violence Reduction Unit have provided a small grant to CSPs (with local authorities as the accountable bodies) to ensure the preparation for and timeliness of the delivery of this work. This includes an allocation for labour costs which have been used to support the provision of analytical resource for the Strategic Needs Assessment.

Strategic needs assessment and consultation

The serious violence strategic needs assessment (SNA) will form the evidence base to produce the local Serious Violence Duty Strategy along with findings from the consultation.

The SNA aims to:

- Identify and quantify the extent of serious violence that takes places
- Examine potential causes and drivers of violence
- Highlight the types of individuals most at risk of violence, as victims or perpetrators
- Identify hotspot locations
- Highlight any gaps in information or lack of data in particular areas

The initial findings from the strategic needs assessment are made available as infographics and are attached as part of this report.

The statutory guidance² recommends that a number of groups are consulted as part of the development of the strategy, including:

- The voluntary and community sector
- Children and young people
- Adult victims service users
- Businesses
- Educational settings including local authority-maintained schools, academies, independent schools, free schools, alternative provision education and further education providers

Consultation will take place between September and November 2023 with residents, young people, businesses, service users and stakeholders.

The findings from the SNA will help generate discussion with residents/ stakeholders and collectively this information will inform the resulting strategy. A formalised communications plan has been agreed, outlining messages and a wide range of channels, including but not limited to social media, e-newsletters and printed news channels.

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125001/Final_Serious_Violence_Duty_Statutory_Guidance_-_December_2022.pdf

4) Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

Enfield Council's latest Council Plan 2023-26 sets out how the Council will invest in Enfield to build and maintain strong, healthy and safe communities. This includes a specific action to improve feelings of safety and tackle crime and antisocial behaviour. Implementation of the Serious Violence Duty and the work to reduce and prevent serious violence will support delivery of this action.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board's Community Safety Plan 2022-25 sets out nine priority areas, including tackling violence in all its forms; keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime; and tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. Development of a Serious Violence Duty Strategy will support the SSCB to deliver on these priorities.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Infographic Strategic Needs Assessment findings

Appendix 2 - Consultation plan

Background Papers

Home Office (2022) [Serious Violence Duty: Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities](#)