

Developing a Violence Taskforce in Slough



HM Government

Serious Violence Strategy

April 2018

In July 2019, the Government announced a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence. The new 'public health duty' covers the police, local councils, local health bodies such as NHS Trusts, education representatives and youth offending services. This is to ensure that these services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge, to understand and address the root causes of serious violence, including knife crime. The challenge of serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone, communities and local partnerships are at the centre of the response.

Local Strategy



Safer Slough Partnership Serious Violence Strategy

Highlights from the National Serious Violence Strategy

<p>Early intervention + prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building resilience • Supporting positive alternatives • Timely interventions • Trauma based approaches 	<p>Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling knife crime • Stop and Search • Weapons sweep operations • Test purchases • Victims Strategy and code • Support for victims in court 	<p>Supporting communities and local partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSPs to take a leadership role • Knife crime awareness programmes • Develop a local understanding of youth violence and produce assessments • Building Resilience to violence in local Communities 	<p>County Lines and Drugs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise Awareness of county lines (Public and Professionals) • Update education guidance • Address specific threats and challenges • Focus on Drug treatment and testing on arrest
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The Local Problem Profile – what we know

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environment can impact negatively on young people (the built environment, town centre and parks) leading to a lack of connection and belonging. • Young people are at greater risk from family association and can suffer negatively from peer associations, leading them to adopt those behaviours. • Social Media provides a platform to disseminate negative information, increasing fear and impacting on perceptions. • Exclusion and missing from mainstream education greatly increases involvement in gangs and serious violence. • The age of gang membership has reduced with younger children now involved in gangs behaviour. • The perception among young people is that Knife carrying is a reality; motivated out of fear. • Slough needs a culture where everyone recognises their role in tackling serious violence, including challenging thresholds and gaps in services.
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The Slough response

<p>Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build resilience and support education in schools and wider communities to raise awareness. • Create, promote and communicate a positive view of our town. 	<p>Early intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are identified and receive an effective intervention at the earliest opportunity to stop them becoming involved in gangs and serious violence. 	<p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knife crime and County Lines and related criminality will be tackled robustly. 	<p>Reactive intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People already involved in gangs, County Lines activity and those committing serious violence will receive the right intervention at the right time.
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Slough Violence Taskforce

Key Objectives of the Slough Violence Taskforce

- Provide a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to address serious violence in Slough
- Coordinate the collation of evidence to ensure informed decision making
- Identify root causes and drivers of serious violence to ensure the development of evidence based interventions, which achieve long term sustainable solutions
- Perform a needs assessment of gaps in service capacity and provisions
- Monitor the impact and value of deliverables under the local strategy, to ensure the best response for Slough is achieved, ensuring a safer community
- Identify work streams and deliverable under the local serious violence strategy
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, information, and best practice in relation to serious violence
- Support evidence based policy making in relation to serious violence



Serious Violence Taskforce – Purpose

Slough Violence Taskforce

To provide a multi-agency, co-ordinated approach to address the issue of serious violence in Slough

Data & Insight

Understand and identify root causes & key issues around involvement in violence

Identify available and missing data

Understand barriers to (and ways to improve) data sharing

All of the above will be used to support and inform the work of the violence reduction interventions group

Violence Reduction Interventions

Map the current 'Slough Offer' and gaps in provision

Identify and implement interventions that tackle the root causes of violence

Identify long-term, sustainable solutions

Work with partners & the community to build resources that exist

Develop a case management process

Communications

Reassure residents that the taskforce is working together to tackle violence in our town

Identify & develop innovative methods to communicate with our Slough communities

Inform the community of the activities of the violence reduction interventions group

Explore innovative methods for encouraging behavioural change

Supporting Resources & Funding

Early Intervention Youth Fund

The Early Intervention Youth Fund delivering a four tiered programme of work aiming to prevent young people being exploited into violence and offending through gangs and County Lines drug dealing. Work ranges from broad reach awareness raising in schools to targeted intervention with young people already involved in gangs and knife crime.

Surge Funding (£1.9 million across Thames Valley)

Funding has been split, between centrally and locally funded interventions/ purchases. Locally, spend plan proposals include programmes diverting children at risk of becoming involved in knife crime and gangs, increased CCTV, a communications campaign, and support of the Choices Programme, to help children to identify threat and risk, and make good choices that keep them safe.

Violence Reduction Unit Fund (£1.16million across Thames Valley)

Funding is being split between strategic activity to support the development of a Thames Valley wide Violence Reduction Unit and on the ground delivery. Spending being considered includes; pilots in trauma intervention in custody, custody coaches, drug diversion, engagement events with community groups and stakeholders, work with Microsoft on Information Sharing etc.

More details to be released shortly.