

Preventing Serious Violent Crime in Cardiff

Reason for the Report

1. To facilitate Members consideration of how the Community Safety Partnership is working to address and prevent serious violent crime in Cardiff, this report provides:
 - An outline of the meeting's structure and papers;
 - An overview of the Community Safety Partnership Board's background and structure;
 - Definition of Violent Crime;
 - Summary of the UK government's, Serious Violence Strategy (*applicable for England & Wales*)
2. In addition to the briefing note prepared by the Community Safety Partnership and attached to this paper, Members will also receive two presentations at the meeting. The first presentation will focus on the local context of serious violent crime, and the second presentation will focus on the work and measures in place to address and prevent serious violent crime.
3. Members are reminded that under the Police and Justice Act 2006, this Committee serves as the Council's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee with the purpose of assessing the Community Safety Partnership as a whole, as opposed to scrutinising the individual work of each responsible authority who make up the Board.

Scope of Scrutiny

4. When considering the Committee's Work Programme for 2021/22, Members agreed to undertake a piece of work to assess how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is addressing and preventing serious violent crime in Cardiff.

5. The meeting will serve as an opportunity for Committee Members to:
 - Consider the current standing of serious violent crime in Cardiff and to discuss with key stakeholders any known local challenges or issues;
 - Assess how the CSP is addressing and preventing serious violent crime in Cardiff and determine if it is being proactive and preventative in its approach.
 - Provide observation and constructive feedback to support this issue being addressed and prevented.
 - Assist in the development of the Violence Prevention Strategy.

6. To inform their consideration, Members requested:
 - Insight into the local context of serious violent crime.
 - A brief overview of the 'Serious Violence Duty' and how the CSP has responded to this duty.
 - Data on the local problem profile – including recent statistics and relevant strategic needs assessments.
 - The measures in place to prevent and tackle serious violent crime in Cardiff.
 - Overview of the work of the three sub-groups of the CSP's Violence Prevention Group:
 1. Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime
 2. Nighttime Economy
 3. Violence Against Women & Girls

Overview to include their objectives, current focus of work, operating models and how their performance is assessed.

- To discuss local issues and receive insight into any associated challenges in addressing this problem.
- Insight into the Violence Prevention Strategy currently being developed including its purpose, status, anticipated outcomes and any key timelines.
- How the CSP works to support victims of violent crime (if applicable) and;
- To engage with representatives from relevant organisations to discuss the impact of violent crime and to receive their perspective on preventative measures.

Structure of Papers

7. In line with Members requests, detailed in point 6 of this report, attached at **Appendix A**, is a briefing note prepared by the Community Safety Partnership.
8. Members are also reminded that further information will be provided at the meeting during the witnesses' presentations.

Structure of the Meeting

9. Representatives from the following organisations have been invited to attend the meeting to share their knowledge, views and perspectives of serious violent crime and how the issue is best addressed:

- **Community Safety Partnership**
- **Violence Prevention Unit**
- **South Wales Police**
- **Victim Support**

An additional organisation has also been approached to attend and their response is awaited.

10. In line with the requests detailed in point 6 of this report, the meeting will be divided into three sections. The first section of the meeting will focus on the local context of serious violent crime, the second section will focus on the work to prevent and address serious violent crime and the third section, will be an opportunity to explore the impact of violent crime with relevant organisations.

11. The running order for the meeting is as follows:

1. An Overview of the Local Context. (4:30pm)

The Co-Chairs of the Community Safety Leadership Board and Delivery Group, along with relevant officers will brief the Committee on the local context of serious violent crime in Cardiff. The briefing will include the problem profile for Cardiff, including recent statistics and figures and the strategic needs assessment surrounding the issue. This will be followed by a Q&A session for Committee Members to explore the local context in detail with the presenters.

2. Work of the Community Safety Partnership's Violence Prevention Group & Violence Prevention Strategy Development (5:25pm)

For Committee Members to receive a briefing on the work being done by the Community Safety Partnership to address and prevent violent crime in Cardiff. The briefing will also include insight into the forthcoming Violence Prevention Strategy, providing Committee Members with an opportunity to contribute to its development. This briefing will be followed by a Q&A session for Committee Members to explore the work to address this issue with the presenters.

3. Evidence Session with relevant organisation (6:00pm)

For Members to engage with a relevant representation to discuss the impact of violent crime on Cardiff's residents and hear their perspective on how the issue is best addressed. This section would begin with the relevant representative providing a brief 5-minute opening statement. Following the opening statement, Committee Members would then enter an informal Q&A session with the representative to explore the impact of

violent crime and to receive their thoughts on how violent crime is best addressed / prevented.

4. Closing Remarks/Reflection (6:15pm)

To provide the Community Safety Partnership Chairs and Committee Members with an opportunity for reflection and any further remarks prior to the meeting closing.

Community Safety Partnership Background

12. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, a number of 'responsible authorities' in each local authority area were required to establish a partnerships to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment in their area. In Wales these are known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).
13. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, places a legal duty on the responsible authorities to take account, during the exercise of their various functions, of the potential impact on community safety. It states that, '*Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies, to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.*'
14. The statutory authorities in the Cardiff's CSP are: Cardiff Council; South Wales Police; Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, National Probation Service. However, Cardiff CSP also invite additional representation from the Police & Crime Commissioners Office, FOR Cardiff, Cardiff Third Sector Council, Safer Wales and Violence Prevention Unit.

Cardiff Public Service Board

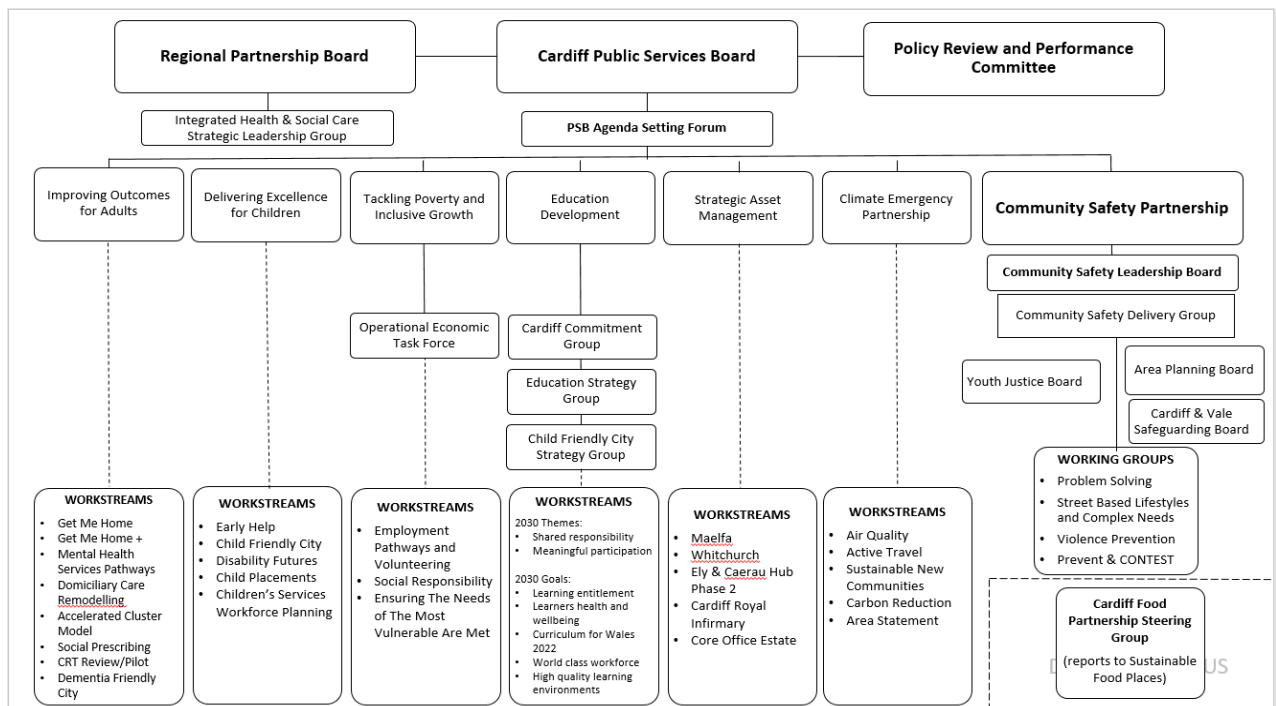
15. In Cardiff, the Community Safety Partnership, originally known as 'Safer Cardiff', was integrated into the Local Service Board arrangements as a sub-group; this was recommended by the Welsh Government in their 2012 statutory guidance, '*Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery*'.

16. In 2016, the Local Service Board was replaced by the creation of Cardiff's Public Services Board (PSB). The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 prescribed the establishment of PSBs for each local authority area in Wales with a duty to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals.

17. For Members reference, below is a structure of the Public Service Board which includes detail of its subgroups and the work streams relevant to those groups.

18. For the Community Safety Partnership, the work groups are;

- Problem Solving Group
Looks to identify issues and develop partnership solutions
- Street Based Lifestyles and Complex Needs
- Violence Prevention Group
- Prevent and CONTEST

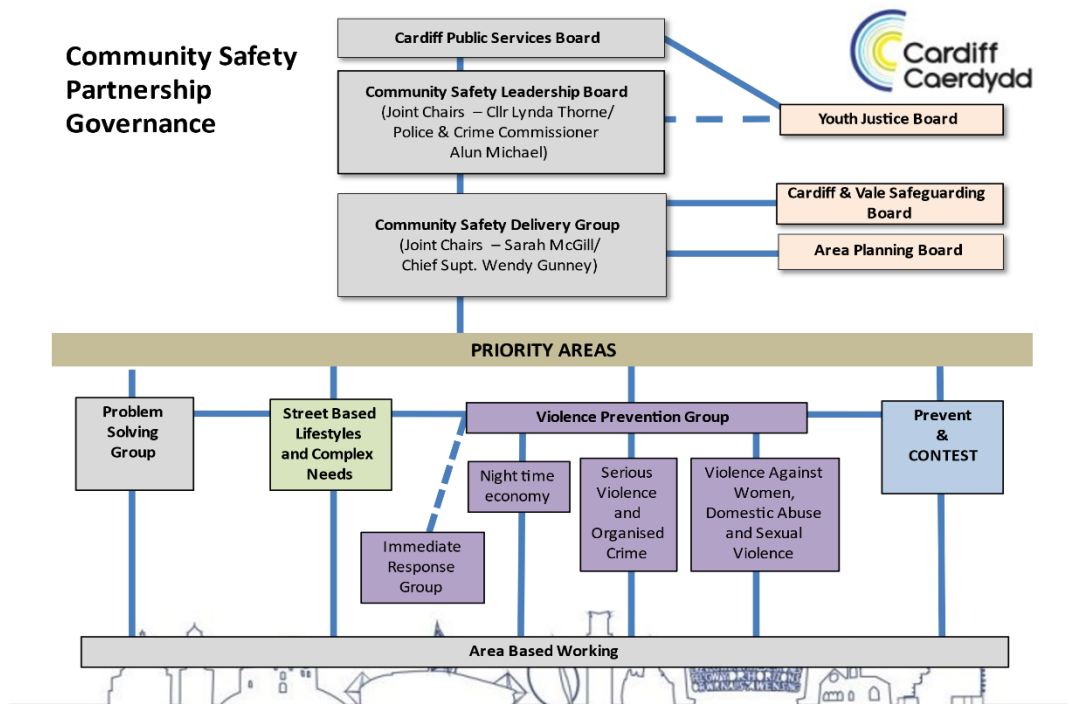


Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Structure

19. The Community Safety Leadership Board provides strategic direction of the CSP and is co-chaired by Cllr Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities and Alun Michael, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner. The Community Safety Leadership Board is supported by its Community Safety Delivery Group which reflects on the work being undertaken by the work groups and escalates relevant matters to the Leadership Board.

20. It is to note that whilst all strategic and operational activity is first considered by the Community Safety Leadership Board, issues can sometimes be escalated to the Public Service Board on an exceptional basis.

21. The below table provides the governance structure of the CSP. Committee Members are to note that in line with the purpose of this meeting, the information provided will focus on the work of the CSP's Violence Prevention Group (including its three workstreams).



CSP Violence Prevention Group

22. A key purpose of the CSP Violence Prevention Group is to prevent and reduce serious violence instances. Taking a public health approach to understanding the causes and consequences of serious violence, with a focus on prevention and early intervention. Further information on the work of the group can be found in **Appendix A.**

What is ‘Serious Violent Crime’¹

23. As detailed on the Crown Prosecution Service website, violent crime ‘covers a range of offences – ranging from common assault to murder. It also encompasses the use of weapons such as firearms, knives and corrosive substances like acid.’

¹ [Violent crime | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/violent-crime) Accessed Friday 10 Dec 2021.

24. Victim Support's website states, '*the police will record a crime as violent if the offender clearly intended or intends to physically harm you, regardless of whether or not it results in a physical injury.*'

Violent crimes can include:

- Assault
- Gun and knife crime
- Sexual violence
- Alcohol and drug-related violence
- Gang violence
- Domestic violence
- Hate crimes (e.g., disability, faith, gender, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation)
- Robbery
- Murder or manslaughter²

Strategic Direction of Community Safety

25. The overarching strategic direction for community safety is set by the UK Government, which has responsibility for law and order, security and immigration, and the Welsh Government, which has devolved responsibility for many policies, funding, organisations and agencies that play an important role in community safety, such as health boards and fire and rescue authorities.

26. At a regional level, Police and Crime Commissioners set direction via their Police and Crime Plans. At a local level, CSPs reflect local views on the priorities for strategic direction and retain statutory responsibilities, including the requirement to undertake an annual strategic needs assessment.

² [Violent crime - Victim Support](#) Accessed Friday 10 Dec 2021

UK Government Strategy

27. In April 2018, the UK Government published its [Serious Violence Strategy](#) (for England & Wales), which sets the management and response toward instances of serious violence. The strategy states tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone. It highlights the effect of violent crime can permeate every part of a community and is not as simple as victim of perpetrator. Further, it emphasises the need for a multiple strand approach involving a range of partners across different sectors.

28. The strategy is framed on four key themes:

- Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs
- Early intervention and prevention
- Supporting communities and partnerships and;
- Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response.

29. To help local areas implement a whole system multi-agency approach, the UK government also introduced initiatives, including:

- A new legal, 'public health duty' to support a multi-agency approach toward preventing and tackling serious violence.
The duty will ensure that relevant services, such as councils, health bodies, police, educational representatives (et al.) work together to share data, intelligence, and knowledge to understand and address the root causes of serious violence. In addition, the government also confirmed they would amend the Crime & Disorder Act to ensure serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships, thereby ensuring specific strategies are in place³.
- Investing in [Violence Reduction Units](#) (VRUs)
VRUs are a multi-agency approach bringing together police, health, local government, and community representatives to tackle violent

³ [New public health duty to tackle serious violence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Accessed Monday 13 Dec 2021

crime and its underlying causes. They seek to understand the causes of violence based on evidence, which is then used to develop interventions. In addition, it also works to understand how violence is experienced both at an individual and community level to understand what it required to prevent all forms of violence⁴.

- Providing £200 million to the [Youth Endowment Fund](#) (over a ten-year period)⁵ to help prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence.

*Members are to note further information on the serious violence duty and work of the Violence Reduction Unit can be found in **Appendix A**.*

The Cardiff Violence Prevention Model⁶

30. In response to Cardiff University's, Violence Research Group's finding that one half, to two thirds of violence which resulted in hospital treatment were not known to police, a Cardiff Model for Violence Prevention was drawn by surgeon and Professor Jonathan Shepherd, MD, of Cardiff University.
31. The Cardiff Violence Prevention Model is a multi-agency approach to violence prevention that relies on the strategic use of information from health and law enforcement organisations to improve policing and community violence prevention programme.
32. The basis of the model is information sharing. In healthcare settings, violence-related injury data including location, time, date, and mechanism of injury are collected. No other personal information (i.e., name, date of birth) is collected, shared, or used. The data collected is then combined with information from law enforcement to help communities map where violence frequently occurs.

⁴ This description of the work of the Violence Prevention Unit is not exhaustive and further information on its work can be obtained by visiting its website.

⁵ [Preventing serious violence: summary - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Accessed Friday 10 Dec 2021

⁶ [Cardiff Model Toolkit: Community Guidance for Violence Prevention \(cdc.gov\)](#) Accessed Thursday 9 Dec 2021

33. The community violence maps produced as part of this information sharing, can be used to identify the specific locations where violence occurs in public spaces such as bars, street corners, or subway stations. It also provides a framework for relevant bodies to work together and develop collaborative violence prevention strategies.

Way Forward

34. The following key individuals have been invited to attend the Committee meeting and contribute to discussions:

- Alun Michael, Co-Chair of the Community Safety Leadership Board - Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales
- Cllr Lynda Thorne, Co-Chair of the Community Safety Leadership Board and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety
- Chief Superintendent Wendy Gunney, Co-Chair of the Community Safety Delivery Group – South Wales Police
- Sarah McGill, Co-Chair of the Community Safety Delivery Group and Corporate Director for People and Communities
- Tim Morgan, Superintendent, South Wales Police
- Jeff Lewis, Community Safety Inspector, South Wales Police
- Daniel Jones, Deputy Director, Violence Prevention Unit
- Suzanne Bocoum, Operations Manager Victim Support
- Sian Sanders, Operational Manager – Community Safety, Cohesion & Community Engagement
- Jenny Rogers, Community Safety Manager

35. At the start of the meeting, the Community Safety Partnership Board will provide a presentation to Committee on the local context for serious violent crime. This will be followed by an immediate opportunity for Committee Members to ask any relevant questions arising.

36. Committee will then receive a presentation from representatives to explore the Measures in place to address and prevent serious violent crime in Cardiff.
This will be followed by an immediate opportunity for Committee Members to ask any relevant questions arising.
37. Members will then enter into a Q&A session with representative from relevant organisations to explore the impact of violent crime and receive their perspective on preventive measures.
38. Following all evidence sessions; the Community Safety Partnership will then be invited to comment and reflect on discussions at the end of the meeting.
Members will then decide if they wish to feed any comments, observations or recommendations to the Partnership for their consideration.

Legal Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decision taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirements imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (he) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the information set out in this report and its subsequent appendix.
- ii. Consider the information provided by witnesses to this meeting;
- iii. Decide whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Community Safety Partnership and;
- iv. Decide the way forward with regard to any further scrutiny of this issue.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services

6 Jan 2022