

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****Community Safety Partnership Brief**

12 January 2021

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**To understand the current context of serious violent crime in Cardiff and the work of the Community Safety Partnership in preventing and addressing this issue. To provide Members with an opportunity to feed into and assist in the development of the Violence Prevention Strategy.**

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**1. Introduction**

To provide the Committee with a brief of the following:

- An overview of serious violence
- A local profile of serious violence
- A brief overview of 'Serious Violence Duty' and how the Community Safety Partnership will respond
- How serious violent crime is being addressed by the Community Safety Partnership and any associated challenges in addressing this issue
- How the Community Safety Partnership works to support victims of violent crime
- Insight into the Community Safety Partnership Violence Prevention Strategy development

**2.0 Overview of Serious Violence**

Serious violence has a devastating impact on victims and their families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. The Home Office [Serious Violence Strategy](#) (2018) sets out our analysis of the evidence and the trends and drivers of serious violent crime. The evidence shows that while overall crime continues to fall, homicide, knife crime and gun crime have risen since 2014 across virtually all police force areas in England and Wales. Robbery has also risen sharply since 2016. These increases have been accompanied by a shift towards younger victims and perpetrators. Most of the violence is also male on male. About half the rise in robbery, knife and gun crime is due to improvements in police recording. For the remainder, drug-related cases seem to be an important driver. Between 2014/15 and 2016/17, homicides where either the victim or suspect were known to be involved in using or dealing illicit drugs increased from 50% to 57%.

The scope of the strategy focuses on specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in

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gangs and county lines drug dealing. It also includes emerging crime threats faced in some areas of the country such as the use of corrosive substances as a weapon.

In considering how to define serious violence within the Cardiff context, it is further advised by the Serious Violence Duty, that authorities should encompass serious violence as defined for the purposes of the Serious Violence Strategy and include a focus on issues such as public space youth violence.

### 2.1 The definitions of Serious Violence

The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) – defines and sets out specific types of crime of **homicide, violence against the person, including knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.**

Serious Violence Duty Draft guidance states there should be – “Flexibility for specified authorities in local areas to take account of their evidence-based strategic needs assessment and include in their strategy actions which focus on other related types of serious violence, this could include (but is not limited to) **domestic violence, alcohol related violence, sexual abuse, modern slavery or gender-based violence.**”

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) aims to prevent all forms of violence across Wales, whilst maintaining a particular focus on serious violence in South Wales, in line with the Home Office grant agreement and Serious Violence Strategy. When established, the VPU developed its following definition of Serious Violence - “**Violence and abuse involving young and vulnerable people, likely to be characterised by knife crime in public places, and exploitative crimes such as modern slavery, sexual exploitation, and crimes relating to drug markets.**”

The VPU is currently in the early stages of developing a Violence Prevention Strategy, the first phase of which will focus on youth violence. The strategy will be coproduced with partners, young people and the wider community, and will revisit this definition.

### 2.2 Scale of Violence in Wales

The VPU was established through funding from the Home Office in 2019, and takes a public health approach to preventing all forms of violence across Wales. The core team comprises members from Police Forces, Police and Crime Commissioners teams, Public Health Wales, and third sector specialist support services.

Information collated by the Violence Prevention Unit for South Wales provides an overview of the scale of violence in Wales:

- The cost of violence on the NHS is approximately £205 million every year
- The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust have on average 2,250 violence-related call outs per year
- Across Wales violent and sexual offences account for 31% of all crime demand
- South Wales has the highest volume of violent crimes, but North Wales has the highest population rate\* (\*year ending September 2019)

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- The population rate for police recorded domestic violence related incidents is higher in Wales than the average for England and Wales (Data provided by the Police Data hub – [www.data.police.uk](http://www.data.police.uk))

Key themes that have been identified across Wales:

- **Poverty** - There is a strong association between poverty and violence. 60% of people attending A&E with assault injuries are from the 2 most deprived population quintiles. For domestic abuse, 70% reside in the lower 2 quintiles.
- **Gender** - Men are more likely to be victims of violent crime in Wales, with the exception of domestic and sexual violence. 1 in 3 women experience violence or sexual abuse in their lifetime – in Wales, that equates to around 530,441 women.
- **The Lifecourse** - Those with four or more ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) are 15 times more likely to have perpetrated violence against another person and 14 times more likely to have been a victim of violence in the previous 12 months.
- **COVID & Violence** - COVID restrictions have impacted on violence – exacerbating conditions for violence in the home and online and decreasing victim access to support. Whilst violence related to the Night-time economy has decreased.

### **3.0 Local Profile of Serious Violence**

When interpreting crime and performance information it is important to acknowledge that during 2020 and 2021 the community was in various stages periods of Covid-19 lockdowns, which saw a significant decrease in street based violence, this can subsequently make any rise in this type of crime look more significant. As a result the following figures should be treated with caution. The latest police reported figures showing November 2020 to 2021 demonstrate the fluctuations of various crime types that are considered to be under the definition of serious violence.

#### **3.1 Violence Against the Person**

There has been an increase of 30.7% or 273 offences (from 889 to 1162 offences). This offence group consists of four different offence categories Homicide, Stalking & Harassment, Violence With Injury and Violence Without Injury. There has been one offence of Homicide this November which is an increase of one when compared to last year. The Violence With Injury Offences have shown an increase of 129 offences or 52.7% from 245 last year to 374 this year. The Violence Without Injury offences have shown an increase of 65 offences or 18.7% from 348 last year to 413 this year.

#### **3.2 Robbery**

Robberies have shown a decrease of 31% from 29 offences recorded last year to 20 in November 2021.

#### **3.3 Sexual Offences**

Sexual Offences have shown an increase of 57.7% or 45 offences from 78 last year to 123 this year. This offence Group is made up of sixteen offence categories three of these have shown a noticeable increase; Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over, Other sexual offences, and Exposure and voyeurism.

### 3.4 Urban Street Gangs (USGs)

The primary concerns with serious violence over the past 6 months have been the issues with Urban Street Gangs (USGs) and feuding groups. There are currently two high level police led operations running in response to the serious violence being experienced as a result of ongoing feuds between groups of young people. Causes for the feuds are varied, but believed to centre on drug dealing activity, as well as interpersonal relationships. Some of those involved are linked to a known Organised Crime Group who are involved in the drug trade and routinely carry knives.

The levels of violence involving these groups seemed to be escalating, resulting in number of serious incidents involving weapons, including firearms. As a result of the ongoing work by the police and partner agencies, the number and severity of violent incidents linked to this specific issue have dropped off substantially. This is likely in part due to a number of the original group being imprisoned for various offences and feuds resulting in the fragmentation of at least part of this group.

### 3.5 Knife Crime

From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 there has been a total of 1,003 occurrences in Cardiff and Vale relating to knife crime, 619 of which were crimes and 384 non-crimes. Of these offences/crimes 208 were found to be notable, with 91 linked to the possession of weapons, 40 used in a robbery and 77 being violence with injury.

The overall number of offences generally increased each month since April (83) to September (114). Cardiff City Centre has seen notable increases during the reporting period, however rather than being any particular new/emerging issue, this is likely due to the re-opening of the night time economy over the summer months, and the increased foot traffic within the sector (although a number of high profile incidents have occurred within the sector during the reporting period – particular incidents linked to Op Wincanton).

The majority of sectors have seen the overall trend in knife-related occurrences increase during the reporting period, with the only sector seeing an overall falling trend being Roath & Cathays. The suspects of knife crime offences are predominantly male with just over 10% identified as female. 77% of suspects are also identified as White British. The age of the suspects vary from 12 to 77, although the majority lie in the age bracket 10-19 (100) followed by 30-39 (91) and 20-29 (85) which shows that knife crime is particularly problematic in young persons.

A & E data which is available for October 2021 indicates that there have been three patients where injuries were recorded as being caused by a knife and two where injury was caused by a sharp object, this is a decrease of two patients when compared to the same period last year when five incidents of person injured with a knife and two where person were injured by a sharp object were recorded.

A police task force was set up in July 2019 in order to tackle knife crime and their related offences in Cardiff. The team is normally a covert team in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles, however can deploy as a high visibility patrol if required. Over the period between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 this operation recorded 200 arrests and 477 stop searches. As

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a result 54 weapons were seized along with £74,062 cash and drugs with a street value of £3,519,110.

### **4.0 Serious Violence Duty**

#### **4.1 Background**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 the government published a consultation on a legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence; based on an acknowledgement that there is an inconsistency in partnership approaches due to the competing priorities, lack of information sharing and participation by key partners.

In July 2019 the government published its response to the consultation which highlighted that majority of respondents favoured a legislative approach to support multi-agency working. The intention to legislate for a new Serious Violence Duty was announced in the Queen's Speech in December 2019. The Duty is one of many provisions included within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, introduced on 9 March this year.

Further rationale for the Serious Violence Duty is the alignment with the Government's wider programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a whole-system approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention.

The Duty will require organisations to work together to plan, share data, intelligence and knowledge, to generate evidence-based analysis of the problem and solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in local areas. This then creates sufficient flexibility for relevant organisations to work together in the most effective local partnership for any given area.

This approach compliments the investment in the Violence Reduction Units (known as Violence Prevention Unit in South Wales), in the 18 police force areas most affected by serious violence, by establishing a legal framework to support the successful delivery of this cross-sector approach, including through the extended set of partners on whom the duty will fall.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 will also be amended to ensure that tackling serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships. It is anticipated that the Duty will come into effect late 2022.

#### **4.2 Community Safety Partnership Expectations**

In practice the following statutory partners will be subject to the Duty; police, local authorities, youth offending teams, probation, fire and rescue, and health authorities. Educational institutions and prison/youth custodial establishments will come under a separate duty to cooperate with core duty holders. However, there will be a requirement for the partnership to consult with all such institutions in their area. Statutory guidance has been produced to support organisations and authorities subject to the Serious Violence Duty. A draft guidance was published in May 2021 and can be found [here](#). However, this still requires formal public consultation which the Partnership intend to partake in.

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Duty holders will be required to work together to establish the local problem profile / strategic needs assessment. They will develop and publish a local strategy which will outline the collective action they intend to take, including (but not limited to):

- A summary of the local problem profile;
- How the chosen partnership will work together;
- Actions including specific interventions / preventative action;
- Engagement plans with voluntary and community organisations and young people; and
- Identified funding streams or resources

There is also an intention to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local partnership working which involves:

- The publication of local strategies and a self-review to collectively evaluate the impact on an annual basis
- The Police and Crime Commissioner will have a discretionary role in supporting the local partnership with the development and implementation of their strategies
- Routine Inspection Programmes, which would be undertaken by individual inspectorates who consider the response to local serious violence issues.

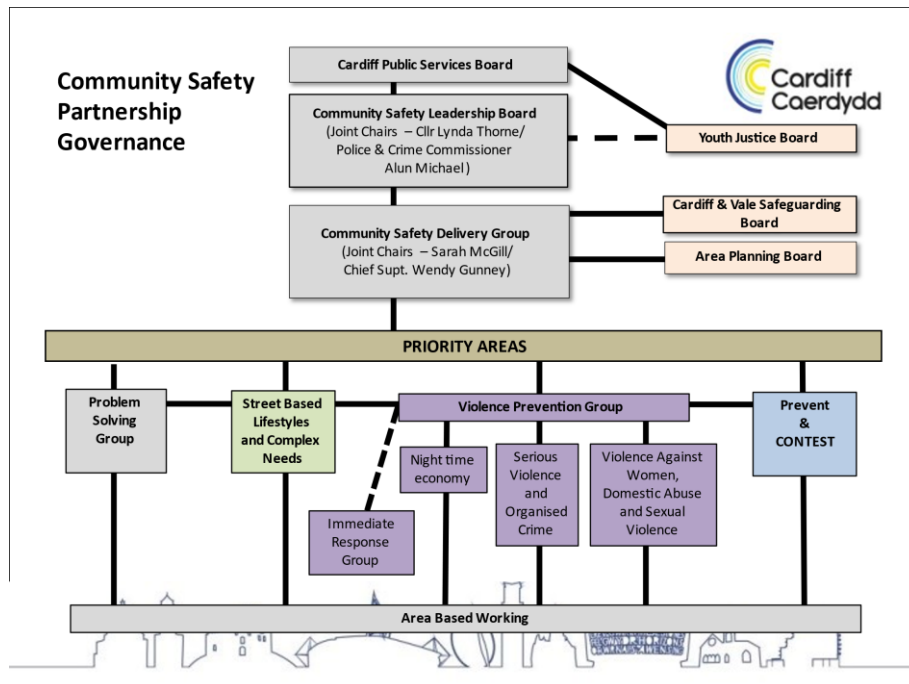
### 4.3 Community Safety Partnership Response

In March 2021 the Community Safety Partnership implemented a renewed governance structure to take account of new and emerging priorities; this included the anticipated requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.

The Partnership in consultation with broader key stakeholders such as the Prison Service and the Violence Prevention Unit, designed a governance structure which is set to achieve the expectations of the Duty.

This governance structure involves an overarching Violence Prevention Group to take a public health approach to understanding the causes of consequences of serious violence. This group is chaired by Cardiff and Vale UHB (A&E), National Probation Service; who are key partners in driving forward this agenda.

The Violence Prevention Group then created three underpinning subgroups to ensure a clear focus on key priority areas that will strengthen an evidence led approach to developing a strategy. The three subgroups are Night- Time Economy, Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime, and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The Night-Time Economy sub-group aims to prevent and reduce violence, associated with the Evening and Night Time Economy which can involve recreational substance misuse and the exploitation of vulnerable people. The Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime sub-group aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in our communities and understand its links to organised criminality. The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence subgroup looks to further support the Regional Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan (VAWDASV) Strategy for 2018-2023.



## **5.0 How serious violent crime is being addressed by the Community Safety Partnership and any associated challenges in addressing this issue**

### **5.1 Night-Time Economy Subgroup**

The focus of this group involves the use of recreational substance misuse and the exploitation of vulnerable people in the night-time economy. Night-Time economy has been defined in this group as economic activity taking place between the hours of 5pm and 6am, which includes pubs, clubs, cafes, restaurants, retail, cinemas, theatres, concerts and transport. The Evening and Night-Time Economy is heavily weighted towards weekends and mostly impacts the city centre, although can also describe activity that takes place outside the city centre within these hours.

The priorities of this subgroup are:

- To deliver a co-ordinated and evidence led training package to businesses and staff, raising awareness of vulnerabilities and exploitation.
- To raise public awareness of personal safety and support services available.
- To direct targeted interventions which are based on local intelligence.
- To plan and co-ordinate the allocation of resources and activities that respond to needs, and review and assess the differences we are making.
- To report to the Violence Prevention Group
- To support the Violence Prevention Strategy by identifying continuing or emerging trends and good practice
- To share information with other associated boards or groups

#### **5.1.1 Effective Response to emerging issues**

Over recent months there have been emerging issues around women’s safety and drink/needle spiking. This group has provided oversight into a partnership response to these issues and strengthening a proactive approach in tackling them.

Drink needle/spiking – In recent months there has been a national increase in reports of drink spiking and more alarmingly needle spiking. South Wales Police have led a proactive response which includes welcomed engagement with our licensed venues and introducing measures such as drug testing kits for customers to test their drinks, along with safe drink lids. This will also be strengthened by the CityNet radio network, which is used widely by businesses in the city centre, to issue warning alerts to premises of perpetrators in the area.

The Cardiff and Vale University Health Board have also develop an awareness raising campaign with statutory partners to provide public support and information for those who may be victim to being spiked.

### **5.2 Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime Subgroup**

The Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime sub-group aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in our communities and understand its links to organised criminality. This involves knife crime and use of offensive weapons, organised disorder between rival gangs or OCG's (Organised Crime Groups). It also aims to recognise the criminal and sexual exploitation of children and adults that is linked to organised criminality.

For this subgroup clear parameters of what the group would focus on were required and these were identified as:

- violence that erupts between organised gangs or rival groups
- large scale violence linked to an emerging community problem such as people congregating in a public space for a common purpose
- rival gangs using knives to fight over territory
- stabbings that relate to the buying and selling of illegal drugs and other violence that is directly related to organised criminality

The priorities of this subgroup are:

- To explore where organised criminality relates to criminal and sexual exploitation of those involved
- To develop a local problem profile based on an evidence led approach to target serious violence and organised criminality
- To develop an IRG (Immediate Response Group) to effectively respond to the critically of an incident
- To work with local and regional structures to assist in developing a preventative approach to tackling serious violence
- To plan and co-ordinate the allocation of resources and activities that respond to needs, and review and assess the differences we are making
- To report to the Violence Prevention Group, by supporting the Strategy, sharing information and, identifying trends and good practice

#### **5.2.1 Effective Response to emerging issues**

Over recent months we have seen an increase in youth related violence and the use of weapons which is closely associated with drug related activity. With the introduction of the



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Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime Subgroup we can already see a positive impact on the emerging issues.

Defined Parameters – by setting clear parameters for this sub-group we are clear on our priorities and where our focus needs to be. As we progress further in this area through an evidence led approach we can review our parameters to ensure we are adapting to emerging issues.

Intelligence and Information sharing – by bringing statutory partners together and key stakeholders we are already building a detailed picture of those involved and affected by serious violence.

Alignment to safeguarding and contextual safeguarding – By encouraging a contextual safeguarding methodology the Partnership are taking a broader approach to the complex issues that stem from serious violence; such as sexual and criminal exploitation. We become better equipped to take an early intervention and preventative approach to tackling serious violence.

Immediate Response Group - By introducing a multi-agency mechanism to respond to a critical incident we become more effective in our community response. The sharing of information in this space along with establishing agreed partnership action, demonstrates our determination and commitment to support and safeguard victims, perpetrators, families and the wider community from serious violence.

### **5.3 Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Subgroup**

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence subgroup looks to further support the Regional Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan (VAWDASV) Strategy for 2018-2023. The strategic vision - *‘People who live, work, study in and visit Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan have the opportunity to live positive, independent lives without being affected by violence and abuse’*. There are five aims of the strategy which are as follows:

- Prepare – Improve strategic planning and commissioning of services through a more coordinated partnership approach across the region.
- Pursue – Address perpetrators of VAWDASV by improving intelligence sharing across services and the use of legal powers to disrupt and convict.
- Prevent – Pro-actively address negative attitudes and behaviours that have the potential to result in VAWDASV, recognising that this is everyone’s business.
- Protect – Improve the multi-agency response and support to all victims and their children regardless of risk level and needs.
- Support – Ensure that innovative, flexible and evidence- based services are available to meet the needs of victims experiencing any form of VAWDASV.

#### **5.3.1 Effective Response to emerging issues**

Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard there has been a call for more action to tackle violence against women and girls. A Cardiff and Vale VAWDASV Strategy has been developed

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to outline the way forward in addressing this agenda. The Partnership looks to assist in strengthening this approach.

Women's Safety Reporting – In order to build a picture of feelings of unsafety, the Home Office are leading on a Street Safe app which is a call for the public to provide details of where they feel unsafe in their community. Additionally, FOR Cardiff are leading on a Safe Places app, which provides the user with a recognised safe place that they can make their way to if they feel unsafe. The Partnership are working with FOR Cardiff to widen the reach of this scheme with local businesses across Cardiff.

Alignment with existing governance – To ensure there is no duplication of meeting structures, this subgroup has aligned with an existing regional VAWDASV Executive Group, to maximise efficiency of partners time.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) – This meeting provides an effective space to discuss the learning from the DHRs and ensure the partnership are accountable for delivering the action plans.

Student Safety – Aligned with this meeting is a partnership group which involves the city's universities. This group leads on a targeted plan of action to ensure students' safety both on and off campus. This has included proactive partnership work during Freshers' Week, such as intensive targeted engagement with students on how they can stay safe, including the provision of safety helpline numbers and the launch of FOR Cardiff's Safer Spaces App. In addition, the student safety bus is based in the city centre every weekend, supported by South Wales Police officers and volunteers.

White Ribbon Campaign - Cardiff is renewing its White Ribbon accreditation for the eighth year – the largest global movement of men and boys working to end violence against women and girls, promoting gender equality and a new version of masculinity. Key areas of work include awareness raising days of action and the continued roll-out of the Ask & Act programme, which will train staff across the public sector to identify and support people who are survivors of domestic abuse.

### 5.4 Immediate Response Group

An Immediate Response Group (IRG) Protocol has been established to ensure an immediate and effective response across public services in the wake of a serious violence incident, which also ensures support for victims and immediate assurance on the safety of the wider public.

A critical incident has been defined as an event, or series of events;

- which is sudden and unexpected; and
- that resulted in (or could have caused) death or serious harm; and
- impacting on individuals and/or the wider community; and
- where an effective response requires multi-agency co-ordination to manage threat, risk and harm

The group itself is chaired by police and has a set core attendees from the following services areas, but other agencies are considered which depend on the nature of the incident.

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- Police
- Community Safety, Cardiff Council
- Children's Services, Cardiff Council
- Education Services, Cardiff Council
- Violence Prevention Unit
- Youth Services, Cardiff Council
- National Probation Service
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
- British Transport Police
- Action for Children (if applicable)
- St Giles Trust (if applicable)

### 5.4.1 Effective Response to emerging issues

Over recent months there has been the unfortunate need to hold two IRGs in response to knife crime, which have been closely linked to drug related activity.

Intelligence and Information sharing – by bringing statutory partners together and key stakeholders we are building a detailed picture of those involved and affected by serious violence. This has allowed us to share broader information on known associates, family and friends to better support and safeguard from any further incidents.

Critical Management – The IRGs that have been conducted recently have allowed the Partnership to respond to the critically of a situation. The IRGs have also inspired learning and further action to be undertaken, which has been escalated to the Violence Prevention Group to take forward.

## 5.5 SAFE Model and Governance Structure

A new approach to protecting vulnerable young people from criminal exploitation through SAFE (Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation) has also been launched. This is based on a partnership approach between Community Safety and Children's Services, which supports young people at risk from crime and assists them in accessing appropriate support and diversionary provision, including targeted youth work.

### 5.5.1 Effective Response to emerging issues

Recent trends have shown an increase in youth violence and an underlying concern of criminal and sexual exploitation. Since the implementation of the SAFE approach and supporting governance structure, we have developed a contextual safeguarding approach which brings us beyond individual case management.

The SAFE approach has piloted a Locality Assessment framework which looks to explore the emerging themes surrounding a location or issue. These themes are looked at in terms of their pre-existing vulnerability factors, the risks to the individuals/community if not addressed, the resilience factors that are in place to mitigate the risk, and any further action that is required to be undertaken. These assessments are pooled together to provide an overarching understanding of the key themes surrounding the exploitation of youth, so they can be further explored with partners and an overarching strategy be developed.

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Intelligence and Information sharing – The information drawn from Locality Assessments has been extremely beneficial to partners in understanding the underlying causes of youth exploitation, between statutory partners and third sector. This has inspired more partnership working and more information sharing.

Support Service landscape – The SAFE model has inspired a need to map our existing referral pathways and current adolescent service provisions. An exercise that will allow us to reflect and evaluate if we have the right services to address the needs identified in our Locality Assessments.

### **5.6 Violence Prevention Unit Interventions**

The VPU works closely with partners and providers to develop and deliver programmes of work and projects that ensure violence prevention activity in Wales is coordinated, effective and sustainable. The VPU currently funds the following interventions in Cardiff:

#### **NHS Violence Prevention Team**

The NHS Violence Prevention Team consists of two members of staff; a qualified Nurse and an Advocate who are supervised by the Head of Safeguarding (post gifted to support this intervention by the Health Board). The team is based within the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, which is Wales' busiest Emergency Department and recently established as a Major Trauma Centre. The Violence Prevention Team aims to increase the reporting of 'violence with injury' incidents to the police, enhance safeguarding responses within the hospital, and support patients. More specifically, the team deliver advice, support and guidance to patients who have experienced violence with injury, with the aim of engaging with those injured whilst they are in hospital, and to promote movement away from lifestyles encased in violence by encouraging engagement with services. Furthermore, the Violence Prevention Team seek to support patients to engage with community services, to enable longer-term follow-up support, and to address the wider needs of the patient.

#### **Action for Children**

The VPU has commissioned Action for Children to allocate a hospital case worker to respond to referrals from the Violence Prevention Team for individuals aged 11-30 years old. The case worker provides a rapid response to referrals, delivers targeted support and acts as a navigator, signposting to appropriate community services and engaging with statutory services. The VPU was recently awarded three year funding from the Home Office and Youth Endowment Fund to extend the team to include an additional caseworker and a dedicated mental health practitioner.

#### **Media Academy Cymru (MAC) – Parallel Lives**

The Parallel Lives programme is for children (aged 10-16 years) and parents where adolescent to parent/carer violence (APV) has been identified within in the home, there are professionals involved with the family and both parties wish to make positive changes. The Programme works separately with each cohort in groups before bringing them back together to develop a plan of action to help improve communication at home and reduce conflict. Parallel Lives

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consists of restorative interventions for families who are experiencing APV and has adopted a holistic multi-agency approach to APV.

### **Cardiff Early Intervention Coordinator**

Media Academy Cymru (MAC) work in partnership with the Youth Justice Service Early Help and Prevention team to engage innovatively and creatively with young people identified as at risk of transitioning from a group of peers engaging in low level-anti social behaviour into an established gang, with the aim of developing effective ways of working that would address the issues highlighted by the research. This includes working closely with Children and Young People (CYP) and community pioneers in a variety of 'hotspot' areas of violence in Cardiff to build direct links with communities of CYP at risk of negative peer groups.

### **Crimestoppers, Fearless**

A dedicated Fearless youth worker targets identified serious violence hotspot areas in Cardiff. The role focuses on building partnerships with key agencies at a local level, identifying and responding to opportunities to deliver Fearless sessions to children and young people within both education and community settings. The sessions are interactive workshops covering key issues such as child criminal exploitation, drug running and knife crime. The worker also provides training to better equip professionals in identifying and responding to signs and disclosures from the young people they work with.

### **Teachable Moments Custody Intervention**

The VPU was recently been awarded Home Office funding to deliver 'teachable moments' interventions in a custody setting and is working with Media Academy Cymru to deliver a new pilot Custody Suite Interviewing (CSI) programme in police custody suites across South Wales, that complements and supports the work of youth justice services (YJS). The intervention will be initiated by a qualified youth worker, with a strengths based motivational interview within the custody suite. This 40-minute brief intervention will start the relationship for post custody work. Where the CYP does not meet YJS thresholds (released under investigation or no further action), the caseworkers will take primacy and engage the CYP with direct case work in the community where increased risks are identified or help requested. The caseworker will work with the CYP over a period of up to 6 months to continue the momentum on the road map to change and will also continue to support, addressing needs to divert them away from any statutory referrals. We anticipate that an average intervention will be 2 months.

Further to these interventions, the VPU has a team of analysts and researchers who are able to carry out research and evaluation into this area of work and can bring together the latest research and evidence to support work in this area.

The VPU produces a monitoring report which is designed to share intelligence on the ongoing impact of COVID-19 response measures on violence across Wales, covering a range of thematic areas which includes serious violence and organised crime. These reports have highlighted issues of hidden harm and increased vulnerability, and that a collaborative, multi-agency approach is vital to tackling these issues and keeping people safe.

### 5.7 South Wales Police Operational Response

#### Cardiff After Dark

Every Friday and Saturday night between 1900-0700hrs Cardiff & Vale BCU commit an additional 19 Police officers to the City Centre to assist in policing the night-time economy and to ensure increased safeguarding. An additional officer is allocated to the Alcohol Treatment Centre [ATC] as a link between police officers on the ground with medical staff and to offset any issues that may occur. A Safety Bus resourced by a Police officer and 2 Police Support / Student Volunteers is deployed with the aim of identifying vulnerable persons ensuring that they are safeguarded or receive medical attention if required.

Between 2200-0300hrs on Friday and Saturday nights an additional team of officers averaging a Police Sergeant and 4 Police Constables are dedicated to the night-time economy. The policing commitment to the night-time economy is also supported by specialist resources such as the Tactical Support Team and Mounted Section.

The importance of partnership working between the Safety Bus, Camera Room, Licensed Premises, NHS Staff [ATC], Street Pastors and officers on the ground can't be underestimated. During the lead-up and over the Christmas period there were 2 Safety Buses in operation.

A comprehensive brief is provided to officers deployed covering subjects such as problem premises, hot spot locations, persons of interest [sexual predators], information regarding persons who may be frequenting the City Centre intent on dealing drugs and who may be involved in knife crime. The brief to officers deployed within the night-time economy places emphasis on early intervention i.e. use of S35 Exclusion powers, positive action / arrest when offences are identified and safeguarding.

#### Licensing

The Cardiff & Vale BCU Licensing Team have a reputation for proactively working with Local Authority counterparts and Licensed Premises to enhance safeguarding within the City Centre and night-time economy. They have worked with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and licensed premises security teams to increase professionalism i.e. vulnerability training, knife crime awareness, and action to be taken when an allegation of spiking are made.

The focus is on the prevention of violent crime and the obligation to safeguard those who set out to enjoy the night-time economy. The recent action / initiatives implemented by the Cardiff & Vale BCU Licensing Team include:

- Provision of knife arches and search wands to licensed premises in response to knife crime and the recent focus on spiking [drink / needle stick] type incidents.
- An improvement notice was served to a well-known bar in Cardiff City Centres, following an incident of underage drinking and sexual assault, with a number of conditions being implemented and agreed:
  1. Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult, such responsible adult to be a parent or appropriate guardian. The responsible adult to be no less than 25yrs old.

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2. Those under the age of 18 will not be permitted on the premises after 7 pm (Monday to Sunday) unless they are partaking of a seated table meal (or finishing it) when they may be permitted to remain on the premises. In any event no later than 8 pm.
3. The Premises Licence Holder shall ensure that its staff operate a Challenge 25 Policy (to minimise the risk of alcohol being sold to underage customers).
4. Door staff must be SIA registered as required by the Licensing Act 2003. The door staff shall be provided on a ratio of 1 to 100, employed from 2000hrs, Monday to Sunday until close of the premises.
5. When door staff are employed a challenge policy will be engaged (Challenge 25) at the front of the premises. (Such policy will not exonerate bar staff, waiting staff or management from assessing age when customers are within the premises.)
6. Any person making mobile alcohol sales (generally tray based shot sales) will have a personal licence, such licence to be available to officers upon request.

### **Violence Against Women and Girls Working Group**

This group has been in place for a number of months with a Strategic Delivery Plan put in place to focus on PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT, PURSUE model, whilst embedding the four key priorities of the Regional Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy; which are Enhancing Collaboration, Prevention and Early Intervention, Safeguarding, and Perpetrators.

The Strategic Delivery Plan sets out the following objectives:

#### PREPARE:

- An evidenced led approach to understanding reported crime and intelligence
- A partnership approach encouraging information sharing
- Seek the views of survivors and members of the public who have witnessed violence and abuse
- Targeted engagement to better understand the priorities and concerns of our communities

#### PREVENT

- Mobilise a command structure to oversee our response
- Develop a specific night-time economy plan primarily focusing on the City Centre
- Use the StreetSafe tool to identify and respond to areas where people feel unsafe
- Have a presence in educational establishments and promote early intervention in young people
- Develop internal networks

#### PROTECT

- Maximise the expertise within partner agencies by signposting people to appropriate services
- Increase awareness of the Live Fear Free campaign
- Named contacts in every neighbourhood
- Increased use of VPN/FMO/SPO
- Staff awareness

## Appendix A

### PURSUE

- Apply consistent “grip” to crimes relating to violence against women and girls
- Robust policing of the top 5 repeat offenders
- Co-ordinated days of action
- Co-ordinate a covert response
- Raising awareness

### Schools / Education

Cardiff & Vale BCU currently has 8 Police Constables designated as Schools Liaison Officers, covering 180 schools plus a Student Liaison Team (Police Constable and a Police Community Support Officer) who liaise with Higher Education and Further Education Establishments.

Schools Liaison Officers deliver a structured programme to both Secondary and Primary School that touches on areas such as Hate Crime (including misogyny), Anti-Social Behaviour, Knife Crime & County Lines, Addiction – Controlled Drugs & Alcohol, Bullying, Cyber-Crime, Vulnerability & Safeguarding (CSE / CE), the building of appropriate relationships.

Five schools associated with individuals aligned to gangs or those involved in knife crime have been identified and there will be a push for engagement to raise awareness and have conversations regarding knife crime, gang culture and controlled drugs.

Student Liaison Teams, deliver person safety advice and address safeguarding with the various Higher and Further Education establishments within Cardiff and Vale liaising closely with the student body and welfare support when issues are identified. There have been recent interventions and engagement related to sexual assaults during the late summer / autumn, spiking incidents October-December, student drugs deaths, targeting of students in robbery offences.

Young Voices Conversations initiative – Schools Officers have been pushing the Young Voices Conversations initiative and utilising Youth Services to run sessions on behalf of South Wales Police. An event at Fitzalan High School was held titled ‘Rue the Day’ – examining the subject of drug use and Offences of Possession and Intent to supply with potential connections to County Lines.

*South Wales Police Knife Campaign “NOT THE ONE”* aimed at young males aged 11-16yrs due to be launched in January 2022. An invitation has gone out to local community groups to identify volunteers who would assist in viewing the campaign and providing feedback prior to its launch (the Cardiff Bay Sector experiences high volumes of knife crime when compared with other sectors within Cardiff and Vale BCU).

### Pro-active Operations

As of Wednesday 1st December 2021 a patrol operation was implemented by the VPU which requires 15 minute patrols in the following areas that have featured heavily regarding offences of violence.



## Appendix A

Another police led operation recently conducted relates to the national focus on drink / needle spiking targeting predominantly young females of student age who have been in the main attending city centre based licensed premises. A drug spiking trigger plan was implemented together with the introduction of drug field testing kits and circulation of information management for needle incidents or spiked drinks. Since 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 there have been 121 reported spiking incidents within Cardiff and Vale BCU. The Licensing Team, Student Liaison Officer and Safeguarding continue to work with our Public Health, University and Licensed Premises partners to counter these issues. Eight knife arches have been loaned to licensed premises to provide a deterrent and public reassurance. Since 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 there have been no recorded spiking incidents.

### 5.8 Partnership Challenges

Whilst there are clearly some recognisable achievements being made to address Serious Violence, the Partnership are still faced with some challenges to overcome.

Landscape - The Partnership are still trying to understand the vast partnership landscape that exists to tackle Serious Violence, and appreciate that in order to be efficient and effective in responding to this issues we need to continually to monitor this with partners, and align where possible.

The broad scope and definitions – Serious Violence covers a number of different crime types and also needs to consider underlying causes and contextual safeguarding themes. The supportive partnership meetings have established clear Terms of Reference (ToR) to provide a clear definition and remit. However, the Partnership will need to awaiting the finality of the Serious Violence Duty.

Data and Intelligence – The sharing of information to inform an evidence led approach to tackling serious violence is complex. Whilst a community safety intelligence dashboard has been created, it provides a starting point to encourage other stakeholders to share information. In addition to this the Violence Prevention Group are currently developing a Violence Information Portal which shares A&E data among other informative statistics, which will provide a more in-depth picture of serious violence. Information sharing agreements are key to improving the data and intelligence picture and this is an area the Partnership will be looking to build upon in the coming year.

### 6.0 How the Community Safety Partnership works to support victims of violent crime

All victims of crime are guaranteed the right to support and this includes helping them to understand the criminal justice process and ensuring that they are treated with respect, fairness and dignity.

Victim Support provides free and confidential support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for people affected by crime and traumatic events, regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police. Their support is tailored to each individual, and can include both immediate and longer term emotional and practical help, restorative justice and personal safety services.

## Appendix A

In Wales, enhanced services are available for victims of hate crime, with a dedicated support service funded by the Welsh Government.

The Victim Code of Practice also sets what victims can expect from the criminal court proceedings. It is widely recognised that the more support a victim has at the start of a court process they are less likely to withdraw from the process, which can result in better crime convictions. The Community Safety Partnership will continue to work with victim support organisations to ensure we are providing the best advice and services to all of our communities.

### **7.0 Insight into the Community Safety Partnership Violence Prevention Strategy**

The Community Safety Partnership are committed to developing a Violence Prevention Strategy which sets our aims and objectives to tackle serious violence and the impact it has on our communities.

In order to achieve this there is key work that needs to be undertaken in the coming months, but the following sets out the next steps to achieve this:

- For the three subgroups to further develop their data and intelligences to ensure the priorities of focus for the coming year.
- To build an overarching profile of serious violence which is strengthened with the Violence Prevention Unit's Data Portal.
- To capture emerging themes identified from subgroups, SAFE and IRG.
- To develop a Violence Prevention Strategy, taking cognisance of the above.
- To develop a risk matrix which monitors emerging themes which can be reviewed.

#### **7.1 Violence Prevention Strategy**

The Strategy will set out 4 areas in our approach, which are:

- **Prepare** – To understand the landscape and scale of the serious violence in our communities we can building our intelligence and knowledge in order to best prepare for our response.
- **Protect** - To protect those that we know who are vulnerable and support those who need our help.
- **Pursue** – To target violent offenders and those who exploit vulnerable people.
- **Prevent** – To raise awareness of serious violence themes, to recognising the signs, impact and support that is available at the earliest opportunity.