



North Somerset Serious Violence Reduction Strategy

2021-22



Contents

Foreword.....	3
Mission Statement and Scope	4
Mission Statement	4
Our Scope – What is serious violence?	4
Governance and accountability	4
Links to other strategies and partnerships	5
A Public Health Approach	5
Serious Violence – The National Context.....	7
Serious Violence – Local Prevalence	8
Weston-super-Mare and Worle.....	9
Weston-super-Mare Town Centre and Hotspots	10
The Evidence Base.....	12
The North Somerset Violence Prevention Strategy.....	15
Our Proposal.....	19
North Somerset Serious Violence Action Plan	20
References	23

Foreword

This strategy is a response on behalf of North Somerset Council and its many partners including the Police, Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Health Services and the Voluntary and Community Sector to violent crime. It is written to closely align with the national serious violence strategy published in 2018 and with the Avon and Somerset strategy driven by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Violence is a complex issue with complex causes and consequently reducing violence cannot be achieved by a single agency or partnership, nor with a single solution. It will take a coordinated whole system approach, which includes not just public bodies but also harnesses the assets and energy within the voluntary sector and communities themselves. The current mechanisms and arrangements for partnership working are strong and these can be developed in order for this strategy to be successfully acted upon.

This strategy is designed to set out the aims and priorities to enable partners and communities across North Somerset to prevent and tackle violent crime. It is underpinned by a Public Health approach to reducing violence by which we aim to fully understand what causes violence in order to effectively prevent, tackle and 'treat' these causes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines a public health approach to reducing violence as one that:

'...seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or perpetrator of violence...'
(WHO: Violence Prevention Alliance, 2019)

In June 2019, the Home Office supported the Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner to establish Violence Reduction Units in each of its districts. The Violence Reduction Unit that was setup in North Somerset will undertake a leadership and co-ordinating role for all the statutory and non-statutory agencies and organisations who have a responsibility and a passion to work together to reduce violence. This strategy has been developed, and its delivery will be overseen, by the North Somerset Violence Reduction Unit (NS VRU).

Mission Statement and Scope

Mission Statement

We will work in partnership with our communities to co-produce solutions to tackle and prevent violence and reduce the harmful impact it has. We will work to understand the causes of serious violence in North Somerset and invest in interventions we feel that will make a positive lasting difference. We believe that intervening early to prevent issues emerging is the most effective way to ensure children, young people, families and communities thrive.

Our Scope – What is serious violence?

There is no formal definition of serious violence, so this profile takes a broad and flexible approach recognising the work of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Behavioural Insights work and following their agreed categories.

Some crimes that are considered as serious violence are:

- Sexual or domestic violence
- Violence in the night-time economy
- Violence with a weapon
- Homicide
- Gun Crime
- Criminality where serious violence or its threat are inherent
- Exploitation where serious violence or its threat are inherent
- County lines

For the purposes of this profile we are defining violent and sexual offences as listed above and any offences defined by law where there is physical and or emotional harm caused through the use of, or threat of violence by one or more persons against one or more persons.

Governance and accountability

The North Somerset Community Safety Partnership includes all responsible local authorities working together to protect North Somerset communities from crime and to help people feel safer. They oversee all aspects of Community Safety work including violence reduction and other connecting issues such as antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending.

The activities and progress of the North Somerset Violence Reduction Unit is overseen by the North Somerset Violence Reduction Unit Steering Group.

The Home Office guidance requires violence reduction work to be overseen by 3 key agencies; the local constabulary, Local Authority (inc Public Health) and the Clinical Commissioning Group and all three are represented at both the Community Safety Partnership Board meetings and at the North Somerset Violence Reduction Unit Steering Group.

Links to other strategies and partnerships

In April 2018 The Government published the violent crime strategy in an attempt to do everything possible to tackle the deadly cycle of violence that devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities. Comprising of a response to tackling serious violence that is not solely focused on law enforcement, but is dependent on partnerships across education, health, social services, housing, youth services, and victim services.

Serious Violence is affected by and impacts on a wide range of factors and issues which no single strategy or group can seek to address. Consequently, this strategy must be considered within the context of wider activity of the Community Safety Partnership, its constituent agencies and the work of other local Strategic Boards, notably the:

- Safeguarding Adults Board
- Safeguarding Children's Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board

A Public Health Approach

Most of the existing approaches, locally and nationally, target individuals or small groups within our communities who have been involved with, been a victim/perpetrator of, or are at risk of involvement in violence. Whilst we will continue to develop and strengthen these approaches, using robust evidence of what works, we will also develop a 'public health approach'.

Public Health Approach to Violence

The approaches taken locally and nationally up till now generally focus on individuals or small cohorts of individuals who are a victim or perpetrator of serious violence or at risk of being one. We will continue to develop these approaches but will also use evidence to develop a more using more broad 'public health approach'.

What is a public health approach?

Public health is:

"The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals." (Winslow, 1920).

The recent publication by Public Health England; A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention¹, proposes a practical approach that will facilitate partners' understanding and response to serious violence as it is affecting their local communities. The approach advocates a whole system multi-agency approach that is place-based and incorporates public health principles.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/838930/multi-agency_approach_to_serious_violence_prevention.pdf

Figure 1: The 5Cs: a place-based public health approach to serious violence prevention.



What does this mean our approach will be in North Somerset?

We will implement a response using the three-step framework developed by the Behaviour Insight Team on behalf of the Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner² to work together to prevent serious violence:

- **Step 1: create the conditions** to make prevention, multi-agency working and evaluation possible. This requires three things: access to rich data; analytical capabilities to interrogate this data; and effective working across agency boundaries
- **Step 2: diagnose the serious violence problem.** The next step is to diagnose the serious violence problem, in order to understand where it is happening, to whom, and what the underlying drivers are
- **Step 3: develop and evaluate responses to serious violence.** Lastly, agencies should work to develop and implement solutions and, importantly, evaluate and monitor these to establish their impact and cost-effectiveness.

² <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/TERM-TWO/Reports-Meetings/BIT-AS-Serious-Violence-27-Sept-2019-V2.pdf>

Serious Violence – The National Context

Overall levels of crime showed falls in recent decades, but levels have remained broadly stable in recent years. However, the latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimate a significant 11% reduction in the year ending March 2020 compared to March 2019³. However, the police recorded crime data show small increases in low-volume and high-harm crimes in the last year,

- 12% increase fraud and computer misuse
- 7% increase in violence against the person
- 9% increase in violence without injury
- 12% increase in stalking and harassment

The Crime Survey for England and Wales shows long-term reductions in violent crime but little change in recent years. Within violence, the only crime type to see a significant change was assault with minor injury, which fell by 35% to 250,000 offences in the year ending March 2020.

There is a continuing increase in offences involving knives or sharp instruments 6%, offences involving firearms recorded by the police decreased by 4% (to 6,200 offences). These offences have seen rises over the last five years, but the rate of increase was slower over the last two years.

Note: Police recorded crime can be affected by changes in policing activity, recording practices and by willingness of victims to report. A rise or fall in recorded crime does not necessarily mean the actual level of crime in society has changed. They do, however, provide a good measure of the crime-related demand on the police.

Weapons and Knife Crime⁴

The year ending March 2020 has seen:

- The highest number of knife and offensive weapon offences since year ending September 2009 being formally dealt with by the Criminal Justice System (CJS)
- a 6% rise in offences involving knives or sharp instruments
- 10% reduction in hospital admissions (England) between April 2019 and September 2019 compared with the period between April 2018 and September 2018

³

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendin gmarch2020>

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatatables>

Serious Violence - Local Prevalence

What do we already know about serious violence in North Somerset?

Between 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2020 there were 22,351 separate offences of violent and sexual offences committed in North Somerset, averaging 5,587 offence per year.

The number of occurrences in 2019/20 totals 6,124, 13% (724n) higher than the average for the previous 3-year period.

The chart below shows the number of violent and sexual offences in each beat area across the four-year recording period.

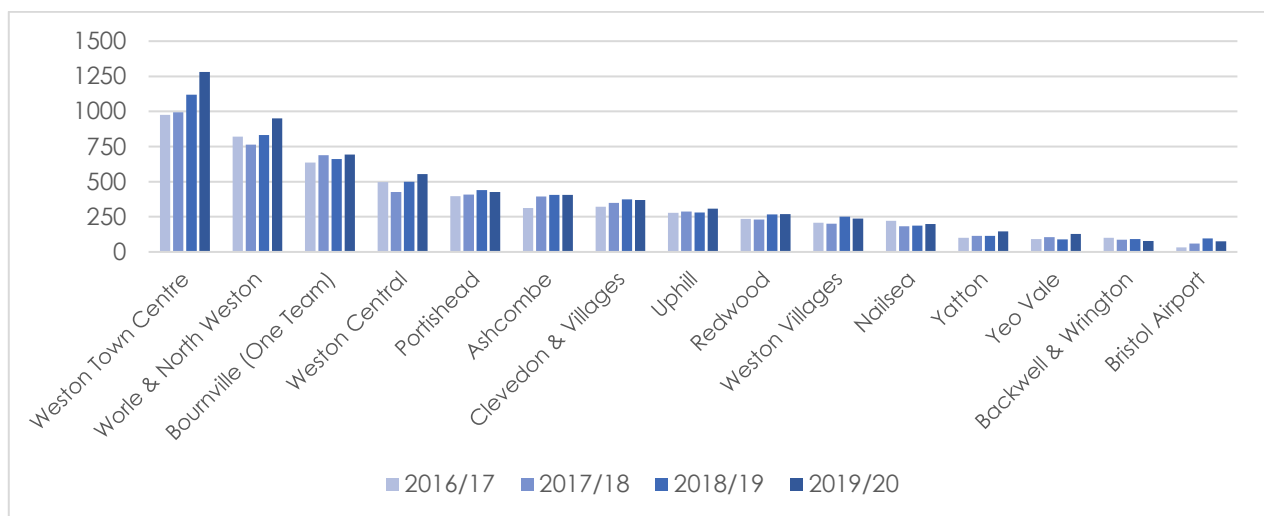


Figure 2: Violent and sexual offences by Beat Area April 2016 – March 2020

Against the 2016/17 baseline there is an overall increase of 17% in violent and sexual offences.

Weston-super-Mare and Worle

North Somerset falls within the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Force Area and is covered by 15 Neighbourhoods, often referred to as Beat Areas.

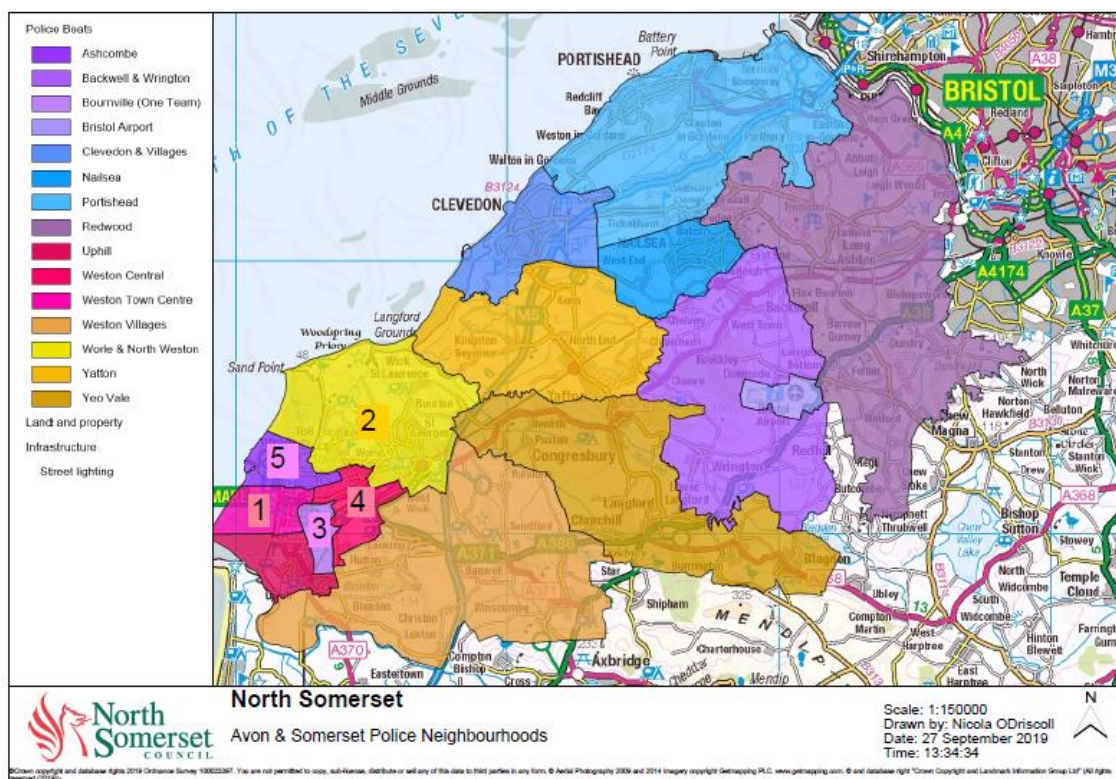


Figure 3: North Somerset by Police Beat Area

From the 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2019 violent and sexual offences have been recorded across all of the North Somerset neighborhood areas, with 62% of all of the offences occurring in only five beat areas. With this increasing to 63% in 2019/20. (Weston Town Centre1, Worle & North Weston2, Bournville3 (One Team), Weston Central4) and Ashcombe5. (n= beat area identified by number on the police neighborhood map above).

North Somerset overall saw a 7% (419n) increase in Violent and Sexual offences in 2019/20 v 2018/19. However, 5 of the beat areas show a reduction in offences.

North Somerset	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Total Offences	5231	5291	5705	6124
v 2019/20	17% (893)	16% (833)	7% (419)	-

Table 4: North Somerset Violent and Sexual Offences April 2016 – March 2020

When comparing 2016/17 v 2018/19, there was a 9% increase in offences across North Somerset. 2019/20 figures show offences increasing in 13 of the 15 Police beat areas (v 2016/17) with an overall increase of 17% (893n).

The five highlighted police beat areas are where 63% of offences occurred in 2019/20, with the top 4 beat areas of Weston Town Centre (15%), Worle & North Weston (14%), Bournville (5%) and Weston Central (11%) all seeing increases in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.

Beat area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total	%of North Somerset total	2019/20	%of North Somerset total	%Change v 2018/19	% Change v 2016/17
Weston Town Centre	976	993	1,118	3,087	19%	1281	21%	⊗ 15%	⊗ 31%
Worle & North Weston	820	763	832	2,415	15%	951	16%	⊗ 14%	⊗ 16%
Bournville (One Team)	635	688	660	1,983	12%	694	11%	⊗ 5%	⊗ 9%
Weston Central	498	427	500	1,425	9%	555	9%	⊗ 11%	⊗ 11%
Portishead	396	409	440	1,245	8%	426	7%	⊙ -3%	⊗ 8%
Ashcombe	313	395	406	1,114	7%	407	7%	⚠ 0%	⊗ 30%
Clevedon & Villages	322	350	373	1,045	6%	370	6%	⊙ -1%	⊗ 15%
Uphill	279	287	280	846	5%	307	5%	⊗ 10%	⊗ 10%
Redwood	236	230	267	733	5%	269	4%	⚠ 1%	⊗ 14%
Weston Villages	208	201	251	660	4%	238	4%	⊙ -5%	⊗ 14%
Nailsea	222	182	188	592	4%	199	3%	⊗ 6%	⊙ -10%
Yatton	101	115	114	330	2%	146	2%	⊗ 28%	⊗ 45%
Yeo Vale	92	106	90	288	2%	128	2%	⊗ 42%	⊗ 39%
Backwell & Wrington	100	86	91	277	2%	78	1%	⊙ -14%	⊙ -22%
Bristol Airport	33	59	95	187	1%	75	1%	⊙ -21%	⊗ 127%

Table 5: North Somerset Violent and Sexual Offences April 2016 – March 2020 by police beat area

Weston-super-Mare Town Centre and Hotspots

- The level of violent sexual offences, between April 2016 - March 2019, in two beat areas in particular, Weston-super-Mare Town Centre and neighbouring Ashcombe were of particular interest when writing the original profile. These 2 areas accounted for (26%) of violent offences in North Somerset over the three-year period, an increase of 18% when comparing 2016/17 v 2018/19.
- The level of offending continues to rise in Weston Town Centre and 2019/20 saw a further 15% (163n) increase in violent and sexual offences compared to the previous year (2018/19). However, numbers in Ashcombe saw no additional increase.
- Further analysis shows that at beat level there has been a 14% (119n) increase in violent and sexual offences in Worle and North Weston and Weston Central a 11% (55n) increase on 2018/19.
- The increased number of violent offences during 2019/20, committed in Weston Town Centre (163) is over three times higher than any other beat area, except for Worle and North Weston, which has also seen a significant increase (119) which is double that of other beat areas.

The Evidence Base

What causes violence and what works to prevent it?

The World Health Organization describe the risk factors for youth violence across three broad levels: individual factors, factors within close relationships and those within community and wider society. Multiple reviews of risk factors for serious violence have been undertaken.^{5 6}

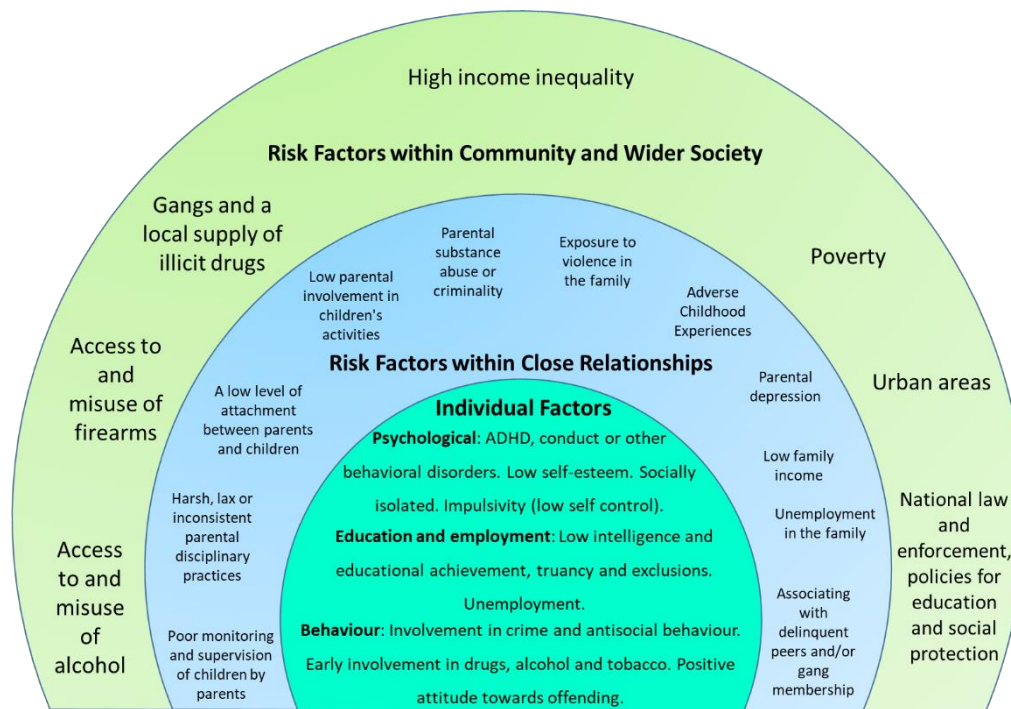


Figure 6: Risk Factors within Community and Wider Society

Understanding which factors can make individuals vulnerable to violence can help identify at risk populations and target preventive interventions accordingly. Viewing the ways in which these risk factors come together and influence patterns of behaviour throughout the life course provides insights into the key points at which interventions to break the cycle should be implemented.

The World Health Organization uses an ecological model⁷ to show the interaction between risk factors for violence at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels. Figure 3 uses this model to show some key risk factors that are common to many types of violence.⁸

Different types of violence also have specific risk factors.

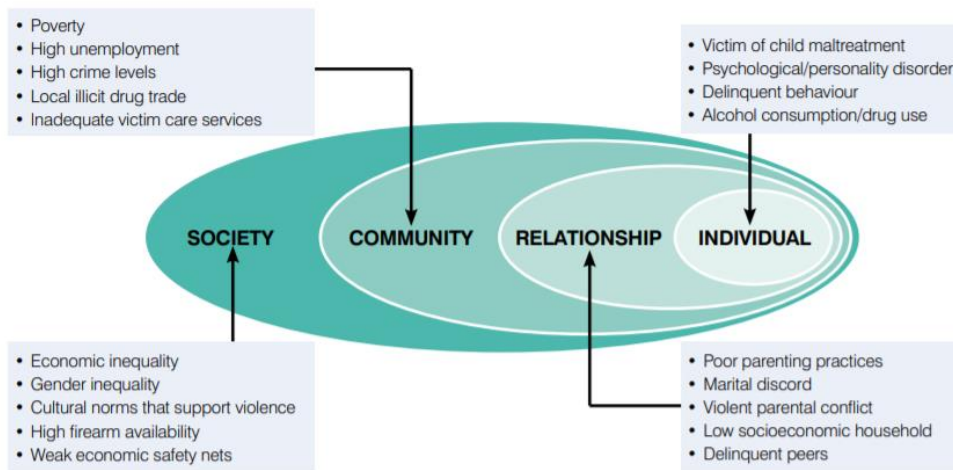
⁵ Roberts, S. (2019) *Approaches to prevent or reduce violence with a focus on youth, knife and gang-related violence. Literature Review*. London: Public Health England

⁶ Home Office (2019) *An analysis of indicators of serious violence. Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study and the Environmental Risk (E-Risk) Longitudinal Twin Study*. London: HM Government

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216977/Violence-prevention.pdf

⁸ World Health Organization. Preventing violence: a guide to implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2004

Figure 7: World Health Organization ecological model



Adapted from World Health Organization, 2004

Strategies Proposed by the World Health Organisation to Reduce Violence

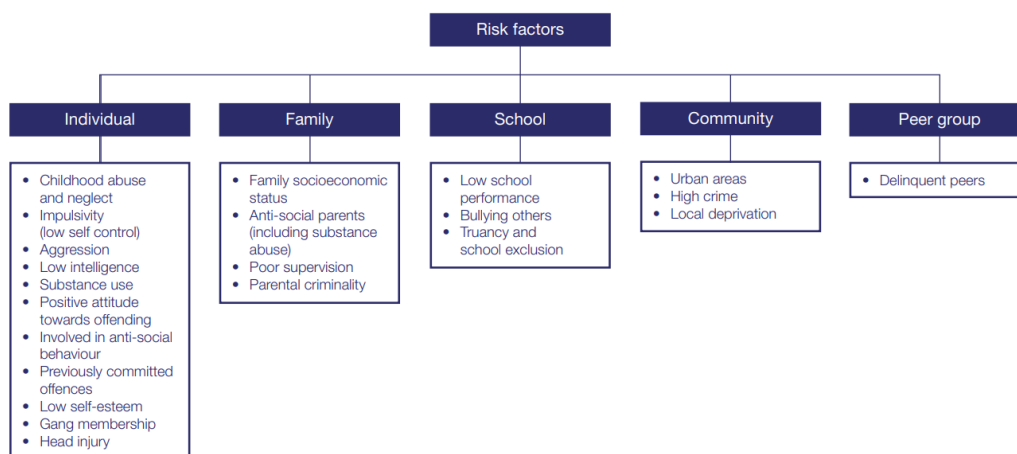
- Supporting parents and families
- Developing life skills in children and young people
- Working with high risk youth and gangs
- Reducing the availability and harmful use of alcohol
- Community interventions
- Changing social norms that support violence
- Identification, care and support

Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy (2018)

In April 2018, the Government published its Serious Violence Strategy setting out an ambitious programme of work to respond to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide.

The Strategy places an emphasis on early intervention and prevention and aims to tackle the root causes of violence and prevent young people from getting involved in crime in the first place. There are four key themes embedded in the strategy:

Figure 8: Risk Factors For Serious Violence, The Home Office 2018



Source: Studies used listed in endnote 82

Strategies Proposed by The Home Office to Reduce serious Violence

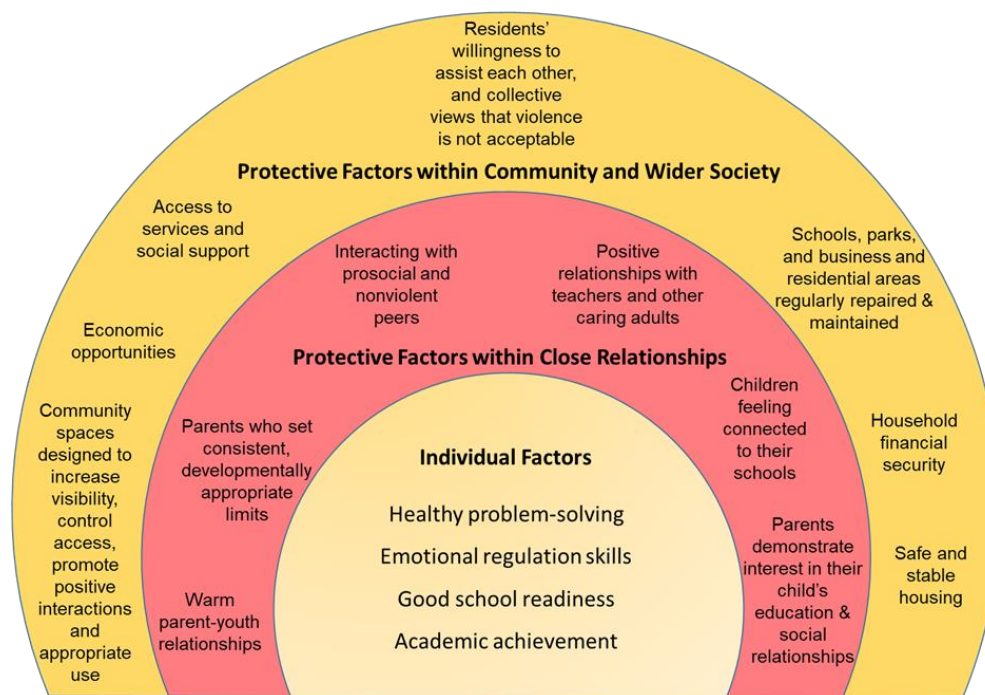
- Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs
- Early intervention and prevention
- Supporting communities and local partnerships
- Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response

Protective factors

Protective factors for serious violence largely reflect the positive converse of the risk factors detailed in the previous section and offer an explanation for the impact of similar risk factors on different individuals. Protective factors can act as a buffer to risk factors, with a positive cumulative effect. A range of sources and evidence have been used to inform understanding of protective factors⁹ (Figure 5¹⁰).

Protective factors are integral to a strength or assets-based approach to violence reduction, in line with the underpinning principles of our Strategy. Protective factors provide an opportunity to build resilience against serious violence through the work of the VRU, and across the system more widely.

Figure 9: Protective factors for serious violence



⁹ Public Health England (2019) *Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending in children (CAPRICORN)*. A resource for local health & justice system leaders to support collaborative working for children and young people with complex needs. London: PHE

¹⁰ Developed by Lancashire in support of local VRU Strategy

The North Somerset Violence Prevention Strategy

Preventative Framework

A preventative framework exists in North Somerset, incorporating a myriad of partner agencies, often coming together as a multi-disciplinary team to deliver a co-ordinated response to often complex individuals, provision and support are detailed in the following pages.

Sexual Abuse and Violence Strategic Priorities for Change

To deliver change, the local strategy is aligned to the six core priorities under the NHS England Strategic direction for sexual assault and abuse services which are;

- Strengthening the approach to prevention
- Promoting safeguarding and the safety, protection and welfare of victims and survivors
- Involving victims and survivors in the development and improvement of services
- Introducing consistent quality standards
- Driving collaboration and reducing fragmentation
- Ensuring an appropriately trained workforce.

Partnership delivery of a multi-agency response recognising and supporting victims/survivors, including supporting survivors through the justice process and prosecuting perpetrators.

In supporting victims and survivors to recover, to heal and to rebuild their lives, look to build on collective expertise to improve awareness, challenge perceptions and recognise early the indicators of sexual violence.

The voice of the victim central to service delivery, victims and survivors inform policy and inform service development, so effective responses are achieved.

Offender Management

Police and partners continue to work together under the IMPACT¹¹ programme to effectively manage the most prolific offenders in relation to acquisitive crime. The Integrated Offender Management model in North Somerset is currently undergoing review and redesign by partners following both a national and local evaluation in 2020. The outcomes of this are:

- greater focus on a 'partnership' approach with a focus on the local pathways out of reoffending.
- broadening the cohort of perpetrators to include domestic abuse perpetrators and acquisitive crime offenders of low to medium-risk
- a need to ensure that any new model for managing offenders will link up with the Violence Reduction Unit and Children's Social Care early intervention work.

¹¹ IMPACT Local integrated offender management programme

Service delivery in relation to the most significant cohort of offenders under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)¹² is maintained to the highest standard ensuring the risk posed by the most serious sexual and violent offenders is managed effectively.

Exploitation

In terms of tackling the presenting issues, partner involvement is crucial. Partnership working is pivotal to reducing the harm caused to local communities and disrupting those involved in these activities. Op Topaz and Social Care exploitation concerns are among the partners and teams the North Somerset Violence Reduction Unit is working with.

As the nature of this type of offending increases in complexity there is a need to both pursue offenders and strengthen prevention and divert individuals away from that lifestyle. There needs to be mechanisms for raising awareness amongst local communities in relation to the methods offenders are using and how communities can best protect themselves.

Substance Misuse

Commissioned services provide support for adults with addiction working within a multi-agency approach. Maintaining involvement with local multi-disciplinary meetings which include:

- The Police
- IMPACT - Risk Management fortnightly meetings
- Bournville One Team Meeting
- Street Community Meetings
- MARAC and 1FD (Domestic Abuse)
- MAPPA
- Start to Finish Project (Offender Management)
- All Safeguarding conferences and Child in Need

The Criminal Justice Intervention Team continue to work closely with the Police and the VRU.

Local Policing has prioritised County Lines¹³ in North Somerset and Drug and Alcohol services have fostered close working relationships, with joint working prioritising vulnerable adults as victims instead of criminalising. By looking at the bigger picture and ensuring the effective presence of services for vulnerable adults this will have a significant impact in disruption and disbanding county lines.

¹²

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843309/Avon_and_Somerset_MAPPA_Annual_Report_2018-2019.pdf

¹³ County Lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. These dealers will use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as 'deal lines', to take orders from drug users

Youth Offending: County Lines

The UK response to county lines drug crime has been significantly strengthened as the £3.6 million National County Lines Coordination Centre became fully operational in September 2018. A multi-agency team of experts from the National Crime Agency, police officers and regional organised crime units working together to develop the national intelligence picture of the complexity and scale of the threat, prioritise action against the most serious offenders, and engage with partners across government, including in health, welfare and education, to tackle the wider issues.

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.

Responding locally, young people are being identified with the aim of delivering appropriate targeted interventions. Policing priorities include the disruption of all forms of serious organised crime and exploitation.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment.

The Safer and Stronger North Somerset partnership ensure communities feel safe within their neighbourhoods by delivering a co-ordinated multi-agency response to ASB utilising a range of tools and legal powers. By working together, to swiftly tackle problematic and disruptive behaviour, to ensure that communities feel safe and secure.

Partnership working in relation to ASB is driven by two primary multi-agency forums:

The weekly **ASB Steering Group (MARAC)** which manages high risk cases is North Somerset wide. The steering group meeting problem solves referrals made by any agency for victims, perpetrators and locations of high concern due to anti-social behaviour. Referrals are based upon an assessment of risk and professional judgement due to seriousness, vulnerability, or persistence of problem. This is the forum that also co-ordinates use of the ASB Tools and Powers in the 2014 Crime and Policing Act.

The weekly **Weston- Super-Mare Town Centre ASB Tasking** meeting reviews current locations/people of concern and co-ordinates multi-agency tasking of actions. This is driven by multi-agency data and intelligence updates. Outcomes are frequently issuing pf interventions to individuals or organisations and the setting up of joint reassurance visits/patrols. Community Response frontline service works with communities across North Somerset with a focus on preventing and resolving anti-social behaviour which is impacting on local residents and businesses.

Domestic Violence

The One Front Door (1FD) aims to integrate the pathways into child safeguarding and domestic violence and abuse (DVA) services, with organisations working together to identify and safeguard vulnerable families at the earliest opportunity.

The co-location of key agencies has led to enhanced information sharing and improved risk assessments for families, intervening sooner, and giving reflections on the outcomes of cases. The One Front Door process improved professionals' consideration and identification of wider vulnerabilities and needs within the whole family, by delivering an effective multi-agency response aiming to help prevent or mitigate the harm from Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Ideas for widening the scope of the 1FD process are underway with the aims and objectives of the 1FD aligning closely with Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

Progress is already underway to improve pathways and secure consistent input with key agencies including Mental Health, Education and Early Help. A new pilot to address medium risk offender support between Early Help and Troubled Families Programme in the area is in the first stages of implementation.

Reducing Vulnerability to Violent Crime in the Evening and Night-Time Economy

MAVISbus (Multi-Agency Vehicle In Service) and Community Response forms part of the local commitment to reduce A&E attendances, hospital admissions and provide an immediate response to supporting vulnerable people. During the COVID pandemic MAVISbus activities have paused but will resume once they can safely continue.

The Safer and Stronger North Somerset partnership work to keep vulnerable people safe during Weston's Evening and Night-Time Economy utilising the mobile base for work in the town after dark to help reduce demand on the hospital's accident and emergency services, by providing simple first aid for minor injuries.

MAVISbus is a safe space that provides triage, recovery and pastoral care to people out in the evening who may be drunk, have taken illegal drugs, or be lost or vulnerable. Agencies including the police, ambulance crews, street wardens and street pastors work together to help people who need support.

Targeted early intervention with families of complex need

The Family Wellbeing Locality Teams are continuing the work of Troubled Families Programme of targeted intervention for families with multiple problems, including crime, anti-social behaviour, truancy, unemployment, mental health problems and domestic abuse. One aim of the Family Wellbeing Locality Teams is to tackle issues before they require costlier interventions.

The North Somerset Family Wellbeing Locality Teams drive wider system change at the local level, including the adoption of a 'whole family approach' and better multi-agency working. The 2019 cost-benefit analysis suggested that the Troubled Families Programme had resulted in economic and fiscal benefits to the taxpayer and wider society. These benefits had mainly been realised through reductions in the number of Children in Care and youth offending.

Our Proposal

The Problem Profile has provided the foundations for our VRU Response Strategy.

- In order to tackle serious violence in North Somerset, we operate a 3-tiered approach:
 - primary focus is Weston-super-Mare Town Centre and Ashcombe Beats
 - secondary focus is the three surrounding beat areas of Worle and North Weston, Bournville and Weston Central.
 - thirdly to focus on extending activities and interventions into other parts of North Somerset based on ongoing assessment of need.
- Our work will provide a co-ordinated front-line multi agency model to efficiently provide sustainable solutions that prevent serious violence problems escalating.
- There are already many different strands of work in the identified hotspot location and it is crucial that all local partner agencies, businesses, the voluntary sector and the community work together to ensure that these have greatest impact in tackling serious violence and associated crime and disorder.
- A bi-weekly operational meeting attended by front-line staff from agencies able to contribute up-to-date information/intelligence on individuals and issues and take away actions to progress resolutions and be accountable for delivering those actions.
- A Violence Reduction Steering Group provides governance and is responsible for agreeing priorities dependent on need and partner engagement. Individual case studies will also be used as a means of learning and improving practice.

The work of the VRU is broken down into a programme plan of 4 risk areas:

1. Risk Programme - Identify victims and perpetrators of violence; case manage through multi agency meetings, Implement data led hotspots policing and Identify and address emerging risk
2. Intervention Programme - Pathways and projects to educate and divert, Sustainable interventions to reduce violence and Identifying gaps in need for services
3. Education Programme - Professional awareness events, Trauma informed frontline working and Primary, Secondary & College age direct inputs
4. Communities Programme - Building community capacity, confidence & awareness, Promoting and enhancing assets & opportunities and Consultation and engagement

North Somerset Serious Violence Action Plan

	Objective	Actions
1	Risk Programme	<p>1.1 Effectively manage violence risk in the community with proactive referrals to the Violence Reduction Unit from agencies across North Somerset case managed through multi agency meetings</p> <p>1.2 Identify and manage risk for victims/perpetrators of violence to address emerging risk using multi-agency intelligence and partnership working including but not limited to Police, Local Authority, education provisions, health, domestic abuse and substance misuse support services to divert away from criminality</p> <p>1.3 Specific reducing reoffending intervention with youth perpetrators of violence and domestic abuse perpetrators. Individuals identified with complex needs will be supported through a whole person approach to develop life skills and break the cycle of offending.</p> <p>1.4 Support Policing Teams including Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the implementation of data led hotspots policing, resulting in a measurable impact on crime in locations identified as a risk to North Somerset</p> <p>1.5 Early identification of domestic abuse leading to support before it escalates or repeats. Actions to include provision of high-quality multi-agency training which has strategic buy-in.</p> <p>1.6 Further embedding, aligning and developing our joined-up multi-agency pathways for domestic abuse support, including MARAC, Front Door referrals to Children's Services and Adult's Services</p> <p>1.7 Improve reporting of DA and accessing of support by victims through targeted awareness raising and provision of information within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Evening and Night Economy o Rural Communities o Health settings
2	Intervention Programme	<p>2.1 Provide pathways for support and interventions to low-risk and high-risk offenders, including perpetrators of domestic abuse</p>

		<p>2.2 Provide education courses and awareness sessions to divert low level offenders within the criminal justice system to divert away from criminality</p> <p>2.3 Provide diversionary pathways including mentoring to individuals at risk of violence with a view to diverting those individuals out of future criminality</p> <p>2.4 Identify and implement interventions based on problem profile for serious violence in North Somerset and gaps in need for services</p> <p>2.5 Develop an ongoing robust progress evaluation of the Violence Reduction Unit programmes</p> <p>2.6 Work with YOS to ensure adequate interventions/enforcement is in line with Violence Reduction Unit objectives, crime hotspots and youth offenders with prioritisation for those receiving YOS intervention</p>
3	Education Programme	<p>3.1 Deliver education and awareness packages to young people and education professionals/practitioners working with young people on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changing young people's understanding and acceptance of domestic abuse through awareness raising, including social media campaigns, aimed at young people ○ "Healthy relationships" work in schools ○ Knife crime awareness ○ Substance misuse awareness and links to violent crime ○ Risks involved of being drawn into youth violence and exploitation including County Lines <p>3.2 Deliver trauma informed awareness sessions and workshops to front line workers including patrol and neighbourhood colleagues to embed sustainable violence reduction approaches into working practices</p> <p>3.3 Deliver webinars and events to partner agencies and professionals across the local area providing information, awareness and overview of support services available regarding violence risk across North Somerset (topics including Tackling CSE in North Somerset and Tackling County Lines and Organised Drugs Markets in North Somerset)</p> <p>3.4 Campaigns aimed at perpetrators of domestic abuse, making it clear that their behaviour is abusive, not acceptable and there will be consequences</p>

		<p>3.5 Manage and assist in the co-ordination of a number of operational weeks focusing on specific crime types in North Somerset including knife crime through checks of premises selling blades and test purchases at various points in the year</p>
4	Community Programme	<p>4.1 Promote, explore opportunities and enhance existing assets to reduce violence and 'better' our communities</p> <p>4.2 Deliver webinars, events and information sessions for North Somerset communities that focus on awareness raising and tackling violence risk across North Somerset</p> <p>4.3 Enabling community views and voices to be heard through consultations and engagement sessions on perceptions of violence to shape interventions tackling violence across North Somerset</p> <p>4.4 To develop a community mentoring programme able to offer additional early-intervention support for young people and families initially focusing on our priority neighbourhoods in Weston-Super-Mare.</p> <p>4.5 Further enhance the towns provision of a safe space (MAVISbus) in the ENTE to prevent vulnerable individuals becoming a victim/perpetrator of violent crime later in the night and offer alcohol brief interventions for repeat visitors at the Safe Space as required</p> <p>4.6 Targeted and outreach work to enable street community individuals with alcohol misuse to access to interventions by our local alcohol treatment provider</p> <p>4.7 To ensure that seasonal peaks receive enhanced resourcing from both police and partner agencies to reduce vulnerability of ENTE users to being a victim of crime</p> <p>4.8 Effective management of alcohol within the community</p>

References

Page Description

- 3 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf
- 4 <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/TERM-TWO/Reports-Meetings/BIT-AS-Serious-Violence-27-Sept-2019-V2.pdf>
- 7 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>
- 7 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatatables>
- 12 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/838930/multi-agency_approach_to_serious_violence_prevention.pdf
- 12 <http://westmidlands-vru.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Youth-violence-interventions-evidence-review-2019.pdf>
- 12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-analysis-of-indicators-of-serious-violence-findings-from-the-millennium-cohort-study-and-the-environmental-risk-e-risk-longitudinal-twin-study>
- 12 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/828228/CAPRICORN_resource.pdf
- 12 <http://www.cvsbwf.org/22939-lancashire-violence-reduction-unit-briefing/>
- 16 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843309/Avon_and_Somerset_MAPPA_Annual_Report_2018-2019.pdf