



## Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

### Report title: Safer Lewisham Partnership

**Date:** 16 January 2024

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All.

**Contributors:** Director of Communities, Partnership and Leisure, Head of Safer Communities, Communities, Partnership and Leisure Data Scientist and Safer Communities Crime and Violence Reduction Service Manager.

### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Safer, Stronger Communities Select Committee with an overview of the Safer Lewisham Partnership functions and the impact of the current Plan including the Performance Framework used. To provide context, the draft Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment, which includes the risk and protective factors analysed by the Partnership when considering how to respond to violence is summarised and a detailed outline of the tools used by specific Partners to assess offending behaviour is also included.

Members are asked to consider the Paper and provide comment and ask questions to the Executive Member for Safer Communities and other Partner Officers in attendance at the Committee meeting.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to provide the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee with an overview of items considered by the Safer Lewisham Partnership when considering how to respond to violence.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are asked to consider, comment on the Paper; any recommendations given will be shared with the Partnership for subsequent action.
- 2.2. The Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment must be completed and submitted to the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) by the 31 January 2024. If the recommendations from the Committee are small, these changes could be considered and made before submission to the VRU, if the changes are more substantial consideration will be made post submission. To assure the Committee that recommendations will be considered, the Assessment is a 'Live' document, the Safer Lewisham Partnership committed to regular review and update.

### **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-2026 outlines the Council's vision to deliver for residents over the next four years and includes the following priorities relevant to this item: Safer Communities
- We will work with the police to implement our Violence Against Women and Girls strategy 2021 – 2026.
  - We will reduce the number of young people who enter the criminal justice system, focusing on prevention and expanding our trauma-informed approach, championed by our Youth Offending Service.
  - We will continue to focus and develop our successful public health approach to youth violence, aiming to tackle knife crime and reduce sexual exploitation across the borough.
- 3.2. The Council's Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021 – 2026, includes the following priority relevant to this item:
- Prevent: Preventing violence and abuse through early intervention and education
  - Protect: Providing support that keeps individuals and their families safe from harm
  - Recover: Providing long-term support to enable recovery following abuse
  - Pursue: Holding perpetrators to account whilst providing opportunity for change and support.
  - Partnership: Working in partnership across agencies and with the community to ensure our response to abuse is integrated, innovative and inclusive.
- 3.3 The Government have brought forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty on public bodies to commence on 31 January 2024, which will ensure relevant services and responsible authorities work together to share data and knowledge, allowing them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence. The Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is part of the Government's broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence, the key strands being a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.
- 3.4 In addition to the Serious Violence Duty, Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act has been amended to make preventing and reducing Serious Violence a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

### **4. Timelines**

- 4.1. The Safer Lewisham Partnership agreed the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan in June 2023. Following this representatives from the Partnership gathered operationally to devise and finalise a Performance Management Framework, which had clearly defined and measurable objectives. Parallel to this, the responsible authorities, which includes the Local Authority, the Police, the Fire and Rescue Authority, the Probation Service, Youth Justice Service and Health Bodies (Integrated Care Boards) have worked in Partnership to complete a Strategic Needs Assessment and a Serious Violence Duty Strategy, which is a multi-agency plan to tackle specific forms of Serious Violence. This work is due for submission to the London Violence Reduction Unit on the 31 January 2024, which will be followed by Home Office Review. An external Criminal Justice Agency, Crest have been commissioned to review all Strategy's/Assessments, providing recommendations where required to specific Borough responsible authorities to action following the review.

- 4.2. Whilst the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board will sit quarterly, associated groups will sit more frequently to monitor the plan or associated/duplicate actions. An example, the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership and the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Network will have relevant objectives linked to the reduction of Violence in the Borough.
- 4.3. Due to various legislation and Criminal Justice Body oversight (MOPAC), the Safer Lewisham Partnership have several plans. Following the publication of the Serious Violence Duty Strategy the intention is to streamline the plans into a single, overarching Lewisham Plan, with a single action plan, and performance framework, underpinned by Lewisham's continued commitment to its public health approach to reduce violence.
- 4.4. It must be noted that despite this intention, the Partnership must adhere to wider expectation, in that a separate Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan must also be reviewed and submitted to the London Violence Reduction Unit in February 2024.
- 4.5. The expectation for the Serious Violence Duty is a yearly review of the Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy.

## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct Legal implications arising from this report.

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1. The reduction of disproportionality is incorporated across all Safer Lewisham Partnership priority areas, is a fundamental aspect of the Public Health approach to violence reduction and is integral to all Partnership service delivery. The Committee will consider wider equality matters when reviewing the report and when making any recommendations.

## **8. Crime and disorder implications**

- 8.1. The Safer Lewisham Partnership is responsible for developing strategies for reducing crime and disorder, combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances, and reducing reoffending in their areas.

## **9. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 9.1. The reduction and/or prevention of serious violence and the overall purpose of a Public Health approach will improve aspects of health and wellbeing of those that reside, work, frequent the borough.

## **10. Report author and contact**

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Slide pack

Appendix 2 – Safer Lewisham Partnership briefing

Appendix 3 – Draft Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment

