

Safer Stronger Select Committee

1. Safer Lewisham Partnership Board

1.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), formerly known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to help tackle crime and reduce reoffending. CSPs are made up of 'responsible authorities' who are responsible for developing strategies for reducing crime and disorder, combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances, and reducing reoffending in their areas. The Community Safety Partnership in Lewisham is known as the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board, the elected Cabinet Member responsible for Safer Communities, the Board Chair.

2. Partnership functions¹

2.1 Membership comprises responsible authorities, statutory officer group representatives and Chairs of relevant strategic Boards relevant to the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan as follows.

- London Borough of Lewisham,
- The Metropolitan Police,
- The Fire and Rescue Authority,
- Health Partners,
- The National Probation Service,
- The Mayor's Officer for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

2.2 Membership also comprises Advisors/Representatives from services and organisations working in key areas of provision or with lived experience (some of which will be invited to the Board for specific items).

- Public Health
- Safeguarding Adults Board
- Children's Safeguarding Board
- Youth Justice
- Children and Young People
- Housing
- Safer Communities

2.3 Membership also comprises representatives who work in key areas or within a particular section of the community.

- Safer Neighbourhood Board

¹ [See attached](#) which highlights in detail the direct connection and involvement partners have against the delivery of the Plan.

2.4 The Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan (SLPP) reports into the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board.

3. Impact of current Plan including the Performance Framework

3.1 The Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan (SLPP) was presented at Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in January 2023. It was then presented at the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board in January 2023 and in June 2023, where it was approved, following a change in Cabinet lead for Safer Communities.

3.2 A performance framework was agreed by the Partnership which identified activities that should be delivered against the Plan and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) measurements to map progress and development.

3.3 During this period developments had been made in delivery against the Plan including securing Home Office funding for the Safer Streets (Round 5) programme, further funding obtained from Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) through the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to continue the Community Capacity Building project. Funding was also secured to commence a perpetrator programme (as part of Lewisham's commitment to hold perpetrators to account whilst also offering support to change their behaviour) and funding was secured to deliver a Sanctuary Scheme (supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse to remain in their homes through enhanced security measures).

3.4 In addition, Lewisham had successfully undertaken community engagement and community listening projects through the involvement of community partners delivery research and insight in the form of an appreciative inquiry (reducing violence and domestic abuse in Lewisham), community conversations (the impact of drugs and alcohol on communities in Lewisham) and the exploration of what more could be done to reduce violence in the community.

3.5 Following several workshops with Partnership members, three subgroups were established for each priority area, (1) Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, (2) Community Engagement and (3) Public Health Approach to Violence with a focus on youth violence.

3.6 A Terms of Reference (ToR) was devised for each subgroup which was subsequently reviewed and adopted, by their respective groups. The ToR agreed that no single agency could manage, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety issues and that these issues should be addressed more effectively and efficiently through working in partnership.

3.7 The subgroups will have oversight of their respective areas, on behalf of the Partnership and report progress, developments, and opportunities into the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board (SLPB) and the newly formed Safer Lewisham Partnership Operational Board². They will ensure the effective

² The Safer Lewisham Partnership Operational Board will be established post the Serious Violence Duty SNA and Strategy sign off by the Home Office.

delivery of outcomes, as outlined in the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan (SLPP) and Performance Framework.

- 3.8 The subgroup will identify challenges in the delivery of their area, blockages to progress and development, identify needs and solutions, which may need agreement, approval or authorisation from the Boards.

4 Subgroup (1) - Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- 4.1 From the period June 2023 to October 2023 the group made a positive start to raising awareness through public campaigns. This included Lewisham regaining its status as a White Ribbon organisation.

- 4.2 In addition, the Council delivered a comprehensive programme of activities and events in support of national campaigns to end gender-based violence. This included collaborating with partners and stakeholders to deliver 16 Days of Activism, a campaign to end violence against women and girls and all forms of gender-based violence.

- 4.3 Whilst some progress has been made, an area for development is the timely sharing of data. Some partners have introduced new data sharing processes which can add to the time it takes to receive data. It should also be acknowledged that some partners are managing capacity and resource issues, therefore the measures they have put in place to manage data requests can mean more time is needed to provide the information requested.

- 4.4 In addition, to ensure Lewisham is compliant and meets Information Governance and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) expectations across the Partnership. Information Sharing Agreements (ISA) are being reviewed by the Council's Information Governance (IG) team. Whilst it is acknowledged that this has added some delay to the process, it is also accepted that this is critically important to ensure the correct safeguarding measures are in place.

- 4.5 It should be noted, where data is available from partners, some may have varying data collection periods, which fall outside of the period (June 2023 to September 2023), the Plan is currently measuring. This can result in obtaining data, relating to some activities within the Performance Framework, being incomplete or unavailable for this period. However, it is also noted there are opportunities to utilise and interpret data, as best as possible from what is already available.

- 4.6 An example of this is that Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referrals have seen an increase, the full determination behind the increase is not fully known. An increase could represent greater confidence in referrals being made, greater awareness due to campaigns, greater trust and confidence in services or it could mean more incidents are taking place resulting in higher referrals.

4.7 The fact that incidents are being captured and support offered should however be interpreted as positive. Therefore, it is important to know and understand the full context when interpreting data and not simply relying on or assume figures alone can inform the full picture.

5. Subgroup (2) Community Engagement

5.1 Some areas from the Performance Framework have seen good progress, for example, Police ward panels have seen an increase with 17 of the 19 wards now holding a panel on a quarterly basis.

5.2 Demographic feedback indicates that ward panels are predominantly attended by those aged fifty plus who identify as white. This creates an opportunity to ensure panels are more diverse and representative of residents/businesses in the ward. This can be achieved through greater promotion of ward panels, considering when they take place and where, reviewing current communication channels and highlighting the benefit and purpose of attending, to ensure residents' voices are heard.

5.3 Stop and search is an emotive subject and Police tactic. The drive to ensure these are carried out well, proportionally and with good reason. There is a stop and search Community Monitoring Group (CMG), along with the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) and Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to provide community scrutiny, oversight, and advice to the police.

5.4 Feedback from the Metropolitan Police, CMG, identified areas that are working well, including stop and search figures decreasing in Lewisham and the Positive Outcome Rate (POR) improving which indicates less searches are being carried out, and of those that are, they are resulting in more positive outcomes, meaning something has been identified because of the search.

5.5 Feedback also indicates searches of people under 18 in Lewisham are predominantly weapons related, followed by drugs as the reason for the search. Both issues are key to reducing crime and the related harm across the borough, and both are concerns highlighted in the crime data for Lewisham and responses from community conversations.

5.6 The Police have introduced Operation Coniston (the joint viewing and feedback of body-worn video (BWV) for stop and search encounters with officers and their immediate supervisor. This began as a pilot which included South East Basic Command Unit (SE BCU), which includes Lewisham. Again, a further opportunity to examine this process and ensure equity in its use.

5.7 As referenced in the DA/VAWG subgroup, whilst some progress has been made relating to data collection, this is an area for development, whilst acknowledging and accepting resource and capacity issues across partners, and appreciating, for some, data collection periods may fall outside the period the Plan is currently measuring.

5.8 This is being reviewed to ensure the Performance Framework accurately measures development and progress against the Plan.

- 5.9 Training (leadership and workforce development) for professionals, practitioners and community partners is planned for 2024. This is designed to address the concept of bias (when working with others) and improve cultural competency (to have a better understanding of someone else's point of view). This also includes ensuring training incorporates and is delivered in trauma informed practices.
- 5.10 Engagement through the Safer Communities Community Engagement Forum (CEF) has increased with two thirds of attendees representing the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and non-statutory groups. There is an opportunity for the CEF to support other areas of work across the other subgroups in addition to supporting the development of a Citizens Panel, a recommendation from one of the community conversations undertaken by community partners. It must also be noted that the Serious Violence Duty statutory guidance has very detailed direction on how Community Safety Partnerships should engage communities. The outcome³ of the Serious Violence Consultation facilitated in November 2023, demonstrates that significant work remained to ensure collaboration with communities improved.
- 6. *Subgroup (3) Public Health Approach (PHA) to Violence – focus on youth violence.***
- 6.1 The public health approach to violence prevention involves a comprehensive partnership framework that integrates various initiatives and activities. Some are duplicated in other areas, for example, leadership and workforce development, trauma informed/aware practice, which are an underlying approach in the delivery of services and responses.
- 6.2 This approach includes training programmes for staff and professionals to support violence reduction initiatives in multiple settings including education, youth provisions, community settings, health, and support services. It incorporates youth participation programmes for example, hospital interventions, school-based programmes, and mentoring. Positive collaboration with housing services to better understand the impact and role housing plays in keeping families and young people safe.
- 6.3 Community-based partners are playing a crucial role in supporting the Council to be better connected with residents and communities as well as and engaging with the Police, particularly on local initiatives and ensuring the voice, views and opinions of local people is heard across the Partnership.
- 6.4 Lewisham's Youth Justice Service programmes are proving to be pivotal in the support being made available to young people. These components, amongst others, collectively form the foundation of the Public Health Approach to reducing violence.
- 6.5 Since June 2023 the Safer Communities Violence Reduction Team (VRT) have undertaken face to face and virtual training/workshops sessions. These cover

³ Serious Violence Duty Consultation – See from slide 10 in the slide pack

a range of areas and subjects including knife carrying and the possible consequences of doing so or being found in possession of a weapon, the impact and influence of social media in youth violence, the impact and influence of music for young people, exploitation and what this means and looks like, for example criminal and sexual exploitation, coercion and the influence of peer and social pressures. Beneficiaries of the training include educational establishments in Lewisham, and professionals and practitioners including Family Lives, Youth Build and Barnardo's.

- 6.6 Feedback has resulted in further requests for training and workshops, such as the that previously described (VRT) with an acknowledge that further work is needed in this area.
- 6.7 The Council has made good use of funding opportunities available from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to deliver support interventions aimed at addressing community trauma and tensions, pre and post incidents. This has been delivered in the form of supporting families in the aftermath of a bereavement, from the result of violence. Counselling has been made available within schools following a tragic event that took place in their community and where staff were directly impacted. Additional activities have been made available during school holidays to provide a wider range of activities and a warm meal for those most in need. Equipment has been purchased and made available, placed within the community, to provide lifesaving first aid treatment and response. Equipment and support has also been provided to families following loss of life of a parent. This ensured carers were better able to support the children now in their care.
- 6.8 Funding has been made available by the London Violence Reduction Unit following critical incidents (which typically result in the loss of life). Additional funding being made available for research and evaluation, which the Partnership have made application for.
- 6.9 Whilst multiple partners and services are involved in a public health approach, the impact of interventions and programmes can be hard to measure. Acknowledging the approach demands a long-term commitment makes it equally challenging to measure success in the short term. The Performance Framework provides Lewisham with the opportunity to measure success through the submission of regular (quarterly or as appropriate) data to the subgroup and reports, from the subgroup to the Board. Regular meetings by the subgroup also provide the space and opportunity to review and reflect progress against the Framework. The group is a place where partners can professionally challenge each other to ensure there is a collective understanding on the interpretation of data and direction of travel.
- 6.10 The Youth Justice Service have positively reported reductions in First Time Entrants (FTE) i.e., young people offending for the first time along with a reduction in reoffending rates. As highlighted earlier, no single agency can solve the issue of youth violence in isolation, however these positive reflections provide an opportunity for greater exploration as to why Lewisham is seeing

these reductions. There could be several reasons behind the decreases, and it is essential to know what is working and why, so the model can then be expanded on to deliver greater and wider benefits.

- 6.11 Absolute commitment is required across the Partnership when adopting a public health approach. It is acknowledged that partners will have different roles and responsibilities to play and contribute towards the success of the approach. The key to achieving this is to ensure priorities are aligned as often as possible. Data and evidence underpinning the approach is critical, therefore where there are gaps in the data or evidence is unavailable, every effort will be made to address this and identify solutions to minimise its impact.
- 6.12 The public health approach is multi-layered, involving multiple partners, interventions, and activities, therefore a collective approach means there is collective responsibility and ownership in the delivery of the Plan.

7 Risks, challenges, barriers and mitigations

- 7.1 The Partnership was aware that at the time of agreeing the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan 2023, further consideration would be given to the Serious Violence Duty and the Lewisham Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP). Both have an impact on the current Plan, given their relationship and links to crime and violence in the borough, and will inform the new Plan when it is reviewed.
- 7.2 A Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), which informs the Partnership direction and most notably the revised Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan, has been completed for the Combatting Drugs Partnership. The Assessment for the Serious Violence Duty is partially complete and will inform the Serious Violence Duty Strategy, both of which are due for submission to the London Violence Reduction Unit at the end of January 2024, who will subsequently submit to the Home Office. Parallel to this, the Home Office is reviewing Community Safety Partnership's, the result of which could add to a revision of the aforementioned work.
- 7.3 Sight of the draft Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment is contained on page nine of the Slide pack and should be read in conjunction with this paper.
- 7.4 The public health approach to violence, with a focus on youth violence is complex and multi layered. How this is articulated amongst partners, stakeholders and communities is critical to ensure there is a clear understanding of the principles and approach which underpin its delivery.
- 7.5 As highlighted previously, whilst some progress has been made relating to data collection, this is an area for development, whilst understanding and appreciating, that in some areas, data collection periods may fall outside reporting cycles. This may lead to some quarterly data submissions being inconsistent or incomplete, which can affect performance interpretation. However, the use of existing data can act as an indicator as to how the partnership is performing, against the Framework overall.

- 7.6 There is a need to avoid duplication, where some activities, priorities and work strands cross over. For example, there are partners and services that feed into the delivery of more than one priority area.
- 7.7 Resources and capacity issues, across the partnership and services, are being addressed, for example, some services have introduced processes to manage requests. Whilst this may add to delays in receiving responses and information in a timely period, it will help some partners better manage future requests.
- 7.8 Adopting a single information sharing agreement will support the exchange of data and information supporting the delivery of the plan and performance metrics.

8 Direction of travel

- 8.1 Since the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan (SLPP) was presented at Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in January 2023 and then presented at the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board (SLPB) in January 2023, it was final, following collaboration with Partners agreed at SLPB June 2023.
- 8.2 During the period between January 2023 and June 2023 a great deal of work has taken place as previously mentioned, including designing a performance framework in collaboration with partners, which was agreed by the Partnership. In addition, three (3) subgroups are formed to drive their respective areas, aligned to the Plan. Each subgroup has a lead and co-leads(s), to provide oversight of delivery against the performance framework.
- 8.3 Following the publication of the Serious Violence Duty Strategy (January 2024) the intention is to draw plans together and combine them into a single, overarching Lewisham Plan, with a single action plan, performance framework and strategy, all underpinned by Lewisham's continued commitment to its public health approach to reduce violence.
- 8.4 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.

9 Governance overview is contained in the slide pack from Slide 5 and should be read in conjunction with this paper.

- 9.1 The newly formed Safer Lewisham Partnership Operational Board will sit quarterly, reporting into the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board analysing a wide range of data, including recorded crime levels and mapping progress against the Performance Framework to ensure that priorities remain accurate, and themes are captured with subsequent action, for example targeted service delivery/commissioning will be privileged. The implementation of this Board is to allow for more thematic exploration and operational challenge/support.
- 9.2 The Serious Violence Duty strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis. The Partnership will be expected to self-monitor and collectively evaluate the impact

and effectiveness of the strategy. MOPAC will have a discretionary power to monitor the performance of the Partnership against its shared objectives. Government departments may also monitor progress in relation to the Duty requirements and provide advice/support to local areas where required. A cross-Whitehall board will deliver national oversight, act as a central point for resolving strategic delivery challenges and consider published strategies and the impact of the Duty.