

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Public Health Approach to Reducing Violence	
Key Decision	Yes	Item No
Ward	All	
Author	ED Community Services (Geeta Subramaniam- Mooney - Director Public Protection and Safety)	
Date	8 May 2019	

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the policy context, background and resource implications of delivering the Public Health Approach to Reducing Violence.
- 1.2 This report sets out the Framework for delivering this.
- 1.3 Appended to this report is the Framework approach.

2. Structure of the Report

- 2.1 The report is structured as follows:

- Section 3 sets out the recommendations
- Section 4 policy context
- Section 5 background
- Section 6 the Framework
- Section 7 provides the Financial Implications
- Section 8 provides the Legal Implications
- Section 9 provides Crime and Disorder Act Implications
- Section 10 provides Equalities Implications
- Section 11 provides Environmental Implications
- Section 12 sets out the Conclusion
- Section 13 appendix

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet:
 - i) Approve the Framework approach document
 - ii) Agree allocation of resources as outlined in section 7

4. Policy Context

4.1 This report will be responding to the Council's Corporate Strategy and Strategic priorities:

- Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us
- Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.
- Giving children and young people the best start in life: Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

5. Background

5.1 The World Health Organisation's defines violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, developmental impact, or deprivation

Violence in many forms can be preventable. There is a strong relationship between levels of violence and modifiable factors such as concentrated (regional) poverty, income and gender inequality, the harmful use of alcohol and drugs, and the absence of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between children and parents/ adults

5.2 Violence cannot be attributed to a single factor. Its causes are complex and occur at different levels.

5.3 The public health approach is a science-driven, population-based, interdisciplinary, across sector approach which emphasises primary prevention. Rather than focusing on individuals, the public health approach aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people, and to extend better care and safety to entire populations. The public health approach is interdisciplinary, drawing upon knowledge from many disciplines including medicine, epidemiology, sociology, psychology, criminology, education and economics. Because all forms of violence are multi-faceted problems, the public health approach emphasises a multi-sectoral response. The public health approach considers that violence, rather than being the result of any single factor, is the outcome of multiple risk factors and causes, interacting at four levels individual, close relationship/family, community and wider society of the Social ecological model.

The public health approach is an evidence-based and systematic process involving the following four steps:

- Defining the problem conceptually and numerically, using statistics that accurately describe the nature and scale of violence, the characteristics of those most affected, the geographical distribution of incidents, and the consequences of exposure to such violence.
- Investigating why the problem occurs by determining its causes and correlates, the factors that increase or decrease the risk of its occurrence (risk and protective factors) and the factors that might be modifiable through intervention.
- Exploring ways to prevent the problem by using the above information and designing, monitoring and rigorously assessing the effectiveness of programmes through outcome evaluations.
- Disseminating information on the effectiveness of programmes and increasing the scale of proven effective programmes.

5.4 “We believe that tackling violence requires both strong prevention and strong enforcement measures”.

5.5 Lewisham has already undertaken much of the work that fit within a public health framework. We will be building on this work to deliver a comprehensive, community led approach.

6. The framework

6.1 This Framework is an important document in shaping our short, medium and long term approach to reducing violence in all its forms; in the public realm, within homes and domestic situations, hate crime and exposure to violence. This framework has been discussed with partners and stakeholders with support to deliver given

6.2 Lewisham is taking a public health approach to reducing violence which means:

- Understanding the extent of all violence, where and how it happens and who is affected to better inform including youth violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.
- Understanding that violence damages physical and emotional health and can have long-lasting negative impacts. It increases individuals’ risks of a broad range of health damaging behaviours – including further violence – and reduces their life prospects in terms of education, employment and social and emotional wellbeing.
- A wide range of factors relating to individuals, their relationships, and the communities and societies in which they live can interact to increase or reduce vulnerability to violence. Issues such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have significant impacts on families.
- There are a wide range of strategies that can be used to address risk factors for violence and promote protective factors across all ages. Some can be implemented universally and others are targeted specifically. Using evidence based models will shape impact.
- Working with the strengths that exist in communities to listen and collaborate on designing solutions together.

- Dialogue that challenges social norms aim to prevent violence by making it less socially acceptable.

6.3 The Aim is to:

- Reduce the impacts and actual violence across Lewisham
- Identify the causes of violence in Lewisham, and act to deliver short and longer term reductions
- Listen and work with communities to build on their strengths and deliver solutions together.
- Create a learning environment for continuous improvement.
- Impact positively on wider social, economic and health outcomes for our residents.

6.4 Building on the work already in place the following actions will be undertaken:

There will be the following key strands of work that form the framework approach:

- Community Dialogue
- Review of Services and Provision e.g. Early Help Review, YOS, VRT
- Homicide and Serious Violence Cases Review and learning
- A Strategic Needs Assessment and Performance Framework
- Evidence working group
- Supporting workforce resilience and creating Trauma informed restorative aware organisations
- Youth panel
- Creation of a Violence Reduction Board

6.5 The framework will shape and support the collective approach required to reducing violence.

6.6 The Boards role will be to support a learning environment for continuous improvement and critically seeking evidence based practice, review and provide insights to bring about change.

6.7 The work will influence and work alongside developments both regionally and nationally.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The work described in this report will be carried out from existing resources which include both base budget and any confirmed external funding. Should there be proposals which require additional resources, then these will need to be agreed as part of the council's budget process or met from new external funding.

8. Legal implications

8.1 The Council is under a number of statutory obligations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder; the

Anti-Social Behaviour 2003 requires the Council as a local housing authority to have policies and procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places the Council under a duty to have, when carrying out its functions, due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.

- 5.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 5.3 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1 delivery against this framework will have direct crime and disorder implications aiming to reducing violence in Lewisham. Section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

10. Equalities implications

- 10.1 The Council's Comprehensive Equality Scheme provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities and help ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 10.2 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.
- 10.3 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>

11. Environmental implications

- 11.1 All work needs to consider wider environmental safe spaces and places shaping to support the violence reduction framework. This will be done throughout the work.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 This framework sets out the Intentions for the Council and its partners in delivering a programme that will build on the strong foundations set to date and seek to reduce violence, the impacts of violence and ensuring that we all focus on the safety and wellbeing of all our community.

Appendices

The table below outlines the appendices to this report:

Appendix A	A framework approach – Public health approach to reducing violence.
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