

Safer Solihull Partnership

Serious Violence Reduction Plan 2024/25

The plan covers the period 1st January 2024 to 31st March 2025

Strategic governance and oversight of the plan sits with the Safer Solihull Partnership Board.

Background

On 31 January 2023, the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) came into effect. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 sets out the duty on 'specified authorities', including Solihull Council, to work together and plan how best to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area via a SVD needs assessment, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence.

The Solihull Needs Assessment (published with this plan) has identified the key themes/areas of focus for Solihull as being Youth Violence, Domestic Abuse (DA) and the Night Time Economy (NTE). A set of recommendations, detailed below, make up the core of the Solihull plan.

Our Approach:

- The approach to serious violence is split into three strands, which are overseen by the Safer Solihull Partnership Executive Board:
 - Youth violence – becomes the responsibility of the Youth Justice Board, providing an opportunity to integrate the work around reducing violence with parallel work which is concerned with exploitation and youth offending.
 - Domestic abuse – serious violence, which is associated with domestic abuse becomes the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, ensuring that serious violence is integrated with broader work to prevent, reduce and respond to domestic violence.
 - Town centres – the issues are linked to the nighttime economy, rather than youth violence taking place in town centres. A task and finish group is established to explore and report back on options to the SSPB.

Governance:

1. Safer Solihull Partnership Board (SSPB) takes direct responsibility with the theme/focus area leads to assure the Board of the work done to address the issues and ensure compliance with the SVD.
2. Existing sub-groups/ newly created groups have taken responsibility for the SVD and Leads assure the SSPB of the work that is undertaken for the delegated areas of responsibility.
3. Oversight of the subsequent delivery of the serious violence duty by the Executive Board, is via:
 - Regular four block reports from the relevant groups, with specific reference to the SVD.
 - A more in depth focus on serious violence at the Executive Board, at least once per year.

Progress

Progress is tracked using a RAG rating system to enable an at-a-glance indication of progress towards each agreed action in the plan. Ratings are agreed by the delivery board and are defined as follows

GREEN	The action has been complete and/or a process or programme is in place to address the issue
AMBER	Action towards the target has begun but is not yet complete OR the originally agreed action is complete but the nature of the threat has changed, an further action is required OR this action is scheduled for later in the year (dates to be specified)
RED	No action taken or not on target or progress is unknown

Recommendation 1 : Work Collaboratively	Approach	Owner	Status
1.1 Work collaboratively across specified and required authorities to develop a local response plan to address the findings from the strategic needs assessment. The plan will then contribute to the regional response strategy which will be published by 31 st January 2024.	To split themes into three areas with a lead for each; Youth Violence, Domestic Abuse and Nighttime economy.	SMBC: Childrens Services, Public Health and Communities & partnerships Directorates	New
	Each of the three plans to capture actions that are already part of existing strategies, plans and delivery of the Youth Justice Board, Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and concerning the night-time economy, as well as new activity that has been specifically identified through findings from the needs assessment.	SMBC: Childrens Services, Public Health and Communities & partnerships Directorates	New

Recommendation 2 : Governance Work Collaboratively	Approach	Owner	Status
2.1 Review local governance arrangements to ensure that approaches to violence prevention and reduction are consistent, sustainable, effective and integrated with other relevant work and governance in the borough. This particularly applies to work around young people, domestic abuse and town centres.	As per recommended governance approach, integrating the SVD with existing work, plans, strategies and boards	SMBC: Childrens Services, Public Health and Communities & partnerships Directorates	Pending
Recommendation 3 : Data sharing	Approach	Owner	Status
3.1 Enhance data sharing and review annually. This applies to victims, offenders and locations.	Development and dissemination the monthly and quarterly community safety performance document, which has a specific section on serious violence.	SMBC: Communities & partnerships Directorate	In progress
	Further work needed to develop information and intelligence sharing between different strands and groups in the SSP, such as the ASB Partnership Problem Solving Board, Youth Justice Board and Exploitation Reduction Delivery Group.	SMBC: Communities & partnerships Directorate	In progress
Recommendation 4 : Commissioning	Approach	Owner	Status
4.1 Review current commissioning approaches and frameworks, connecting investment and co-commissioning where possible.	Connect investment for the youth offer and community safety, domestic abuse and children's services.	SMBC: Childrens Services, Public Health and Communities & partnerships Directorates	Pending
Recommendation 5 : Workforce development	Approach	Owner	Status
5.1 Develop a borough wide plan for embedding trauma informed and anti-racist practice and approaches throughout the workforce. This should recognise and build on existing practices	Work in progress with the Business Manages for the Safeguarding Adults Board and Children's Safeguarding Partnership to develop a local trauma informed practice training offer, building on the offer and learning from the programme already being rolled out via the Violence Reduction Partnership.	Integrated Care Board	In progress

and the work of the safeguarding partnerships.			
	Work on anti-racism practice and approaches to commence.	SMBC: Communities & partnerships Directorate	New
Recommendation 6 : Education & Inclusion	Approach	Owner	Status
6.1 Education and Inclusion - Deliver sustainable primary prevention in schools across the borough. Bring together work on inclusion in education and develop objectives to reduce exclusions. Recognise and contribute to existing plans, strategies and governance within "Education".	Scoping and connections established between officers in Education, Children's Services, Police and the Violence Reduction Partnership to develop a more joined and coherent approach to engaging with schools and preventing and reducing exclusions and promoting schools as places of safety. Now needs strategic oversight and encouragement.	SMBC: Childrens Services, Public Health and Communities & partnerships Directorates	In progress
Recommendation 7 : Support & Interventions	Approach	Owner	Status
7.1 Ensure there is a good understanding of the support and interventions available to children, young people and communities. Building on existing sources of information and directories, such as My Solihull Map and The Waiting Room Map, co-producing improvements or new products.	Elements to be included as part of the Solihull "youth offer".	SMBC: Childrens Services, Public Health and Communities & partnerships Directorates	In progress
	Elements to be part of the Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) roadmap work (interventions), as well as development of the Prevention Strategy Communications Plan	SMBC: Childrens Services, Public Health and Communities & partnerships Directorates	In progress