

# LONDON HEALTH BOARD

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	18 December 2018
<b>Agenda item:</b>	4d
<b>Title:</b>	Update report - Taking forward a public health approach to Violence Prevention in London
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<b>Status:</b>	For noting
<b>Classification</b>	Public

## 1. Purpose of this paper

- 1.1. At the LHB meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June a report was presented to the Board on the work to develop a public health approach to tackling youth violence in London. This paper provides an update on this work.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Board members are invited to note the update on the report presented on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018. This update comprises:
- progress on the paper scoping a public health approach to tackling violence
  - establishment of the new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

## 3. Context

- 3.1. Reducing youth violence, including knife crime, remains a key priority for London. Further violent incidents involving young people have taken place since the last report in June.

## 4. Update on Work

### Scoping Exercise to inform the development of a public health approach to violence prevention and reduction.

- 4.1. Earlier this year MOPAC and the GLA commissioned a scoping paper to inform how a public health approach could be used to progress efforts to prevent and reduce serious violence with a focus on young people aged under 25.

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- 4.2. The main report described what a public health approach is and why it is helpful; what is known about the nature and scale of violence affecting people under the age of 25 in London; the causes and triggers for violence; further evidence-based approaches that could be explored; and suggests further roles for local and regional organisations.
- 4.3. There is still a need to fully describe the London epidemiology in terms of risk, opportunity and inequalities so the report indicates where further work would be useful.
- 4.4. Appendix 1 summarises the key lines of enquiry, institutional analysis, summary of interventions, and signposting to key sources of evidence.
- 4.5. The papers were discussed at the first meeting of the VRU Partnership Reference Working Group (see 4.9 below) on 29 October. Details of the partner members and papers of the VRU Partnership Reference Group can be found at this link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngovmb/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=443>

Key messages are summarised in Appendix A of this report.

## London Violence Reduction Unit

- 4.6. In September, the Mayor announced his intention to establish a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to build on a public health approach already being delivered at City Hall, expanding the work of the Mayor's Knife Crime Strategy to include wider types of violence and look to address the links between violence in the home and on the street.
- 4.7. The VRU will be multi-disciplinary and will work across London. It aims to gain a better understanding the risk factors in a person's early life that can lead to serious violence by using data from health, criminal justice and other public services. It will also focus on improving and speeding up interventions at a local level, with the aim of reducing violence and protecting those vulnerable to exploitation. The VRU will work with boroughs, local police Basic Command Units, the local community, families, the health service and criminal justice agencies to ensure action is fully joined-up at all levels.
- 4.8. Work is currently underway to set up the Unit. This includes the recruitment of a director to lead the VRU who will develop a long-term partnership strategy, develop the public health approach and lead this multi-agency response.
- 4.9. A Partnership Reference Working Group chaired by the Mayor is already in place and has now held two meetings, on 29<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November. The Partnership Reference Group will provide strategic direction and oversight to the work of the VRU and is a multi-disciplinary partnership that includes senior representatives from health, police, education, local government as well as

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community representatives. The Reference Group will work in partnership to improve co-ordination between the Metropolitan Police, local authorities, youth

services, health services, criminal justice agencies and City Hall, backed up by the VRU. Current membership includes: Professor Yvonne Doyle, Sir Sam Everington, Dr Vin Diwakar, and Niven Rennie. A full list of partners in attendance at the first two meetings can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngovmb/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteId=443>.

- 4.10.** There are some key priorities for the VRU that will require the engagement of the health sector:
- A review of homicide and the most serious violent incidents in the capital from 2014 when serious violent crime started rising. This will enable the VRU to understand and establish key trends to inform its work and where to focus attention.
  - A strategic needs assessment
  - Development of a Target Operating Model which will require consideration of areas such as the development of commissioning plans and how to influence wider resourcing and commissioning decisions.
  - A comprehensive community engagement plan to ensure the approach to violence reduction is delivered with and for communities.

## 5. Next steps

- 5.1.** The NHS is planning a round table event on serious youth violence in London. This is expected to take place in the next few months and London Health Board members will be sent further details once these are available.

## Appendices:

**Appendix A.** Slide pack summarising key messages from the paper scoping a public health approach to violence prevention and reduction.