Item 4d, Appendix A
Serious Violence Affecting Young People in London
Progressing a Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention and Reduction

GLA Health Team, GLA Strategic Crime Team, and MOPAC
This report focuses on one aspect of violence

Main report
- A public health approach
- Understanding SYV in London
- Organisations and partnerships
- Opportunities for further research

Appendices
- Our key lines of enquiry
- Institutional mapping
- Summary of interventions
- Key sources of evidence
- Detailed data pack

This report does not provide a formal strategic needs assessment.
Serious Youth Violence: A public health issue

Serious Youth Violence is a Public Health issue:

• It causes ill-health through fear, injury and loss, affecting individuals and communities
• It is contagious, with clusters of incidents linked in time, by place, or by the groups of people affected
• It is distributed unequally across population groups, and contributes to health inequalities (as identified in the London Health Inequalities Strategy)
• Risk factors for involvement in violence, which overlap with risk factors for other adverse physical and mental health outcomes
• It has root causes, it can be treated, it can be prevented.
A public health approach towards Serious Youth Violence:

• Uses data and intelligence
• Quantifies the burden at population-level and identifies inequalities and risks
• Identifies and focusses on defined populations, who may share certain risks
• Seeks evidence of effectiveness to tackle the problem
• Generates both long-term and short-term solutions
• Works with and for communities
• Is not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries, but seeks out system-level solutions delivered through system leadership
Understanding SYV: Current & future resources

**Current resources**

- WHO: 2011 review of the evidence base
- Police College Crime Reduction Toolkit
- DH Protecting People Promoting Health
- Early Intervention Foundation
- UK Drug Situation
- Lambeth Needs Assessment 2015
- Scottish Public Health Network Violence Prevention: A Public Health Priority 2014
- Children and Young people in London with Offending Behaviour – A scoping review – Public Health England Health & Justice Team
- Creating Safe Places to Live through Design, the Design Council

**Resources in development**

- Public Health England : Improving outcomes in vulnerable children
- Public Health England : Preventing Reoffending in Children
- The Youth Violence Commission – two reports due imminently
Developing a picture of Serious Youth Violence in London to identify opportunities to **prevent** initial involvement, **prevent** escalation and to **mitigate** harmful outcomes.

**Case definition and incidence**
- Defining ‘Serious Youth Violence’
- Types of Serious Youth Violence in London

**Time**
- Incidence and trends over time
- Temporal patterns

**Place**
- Distribution of incidents across London

**Person**
- Demography of those involved
- Social, economic and health factors

**Risk & protective factors**
- Risk factors and protective factors – prevalence and distribution

**Next steps**
- Identify gaps in the evidence
- Opportunities for prevention
Key epidemiological findings

Developing a picture of Serious Youth Violence in London to identify opportunities to prevent initial involvement, prevent escalation and to mitigate harmful outcomes.

Case definition and incidence
• 55% of SYV are Serious Wounding Offences
• 46% increase in incidence of SYV 2013-17 (police data)
• 42% increase sharp object assaults 2013-17 (hospital)

Time
• School age children: highest incidence 3pm – 10pm on weekdays
• 18-24 year olds: 6pm -12pm all days, clear peaks on Saturday and Sunday nights

Place
• Variation in incidence between boroughs and wards
• Correlation with night-time economy, e.g. Westminster
• Perpetration in own borough varies from 49% to 83%

Person
• 86% SYV hospital admissions are male
• Black young people are over-represented as both victims and perpetrators of SYV
• Ethnicity data is incomplete.

Risk factors
• Childhood adversity
• Contact with CJS
• Looked After Children
• Adolescence
• Poverty
• Emotional / conduct needs

Next steps
• More sophisticated geographical analysis
• Clearer understanding of demographic factors
• More detailed local modelling of risk factors
# A public health framework for prevention

## Primary prevention: Tackling root causes
- Early years enrichment programmes
- Parenting support programmes
- Positive school environments
- Improving community resilience
- Good housing
- Safe streets and places to go
- Promoting mental wellbeing
- Tackling drug supply chains

## Secondary prevention: Managing risk factors
- Reducing fear for own safety
- Improving trust in authority
- Not tolerating school exclusion
- Managing conduct disorder
- Tackling child maltreatment
- Treating substance misuse

## ‘Escalator moment’ prevention
- Diversion from gang involvement
- Engaging bystanders
- County Lines work
- Agile responses to intelligence from authorities
- Contextual safeguarding – safe places and environments
- Safe havens
- Tackling triggers for violence

## Tertiary prevention: Reducing the effects
- Supporting bystanders
- Supporting victims to prevent recurrence
- Reducing availability of weapons
- Supporting ex-offenders through probation and other services
- Criminal Justice System response
- School policies on response to violence
- Data gathering to inform place-based responses.
London’s institutional landscape is complex

London Partnerships

Government Departments & Agencies

London wider review of 2017 knife crime homicides

Inspection & Standards agencies

Academia

Local Authorities

NHS Organisations

Voluntary & Community Sector

Image: Borough SYV levels 2017-18
Existing work around Serious Youth Violence

Existing workstreams around Serious Youth Violence agenda include:

Prioritisation of knife and gun crime within MOPAC’s Police and Crime Plan, including:
- Improved data sharing between the emergency services
- Insight – consultation with victims and with academic partners
- Working with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and peer outreach
- Supporting local authorities to develop local action plans

Interventions
- Understanding and preventing knife carriage
- Trauma centre outreach – the ‘teachable moment’
- Criminality diversion programmes – Young Londoners

Cross-cutting workstreams within statutory and commissioning organisations at borough-level including:
- Child and Adult Safeguarding Boards
- Health and Wellbeing Boards
- Local commissioners and service providers

Needs assessment and strategy development:
- Violence against women and girls
- Child sexual exploitation
- Gang-related violence

Community-level projects
- A multiplicity of local groups and projects are operating in communities London-wide
A partnership approach to violence reduction

Common features of the violence-reduction programmes that have made an impact:

**Coherence** of interventions and partner organisations towards achieving the common goal

**Intensity** of work towards achieving the common goal

**Scale of delivery** of work towards achieving the common goal
Recommended priority work areas

The narrative
- Creating a confident narrative around serious violence in London and working with the media to promote ethical reporting that avoids harm

Targeted interventions
- Continue action to understand and prevent knife carriage
- Extending teachable moment interventions in A&E to visiting peers
- Support the use of evidence-based ‘diversion from criminality’ programmes (This is a focus of the Young Londoners Fund work).
- Out of school and holiday activities for young people
- Keeping young people in education and tackling exclusions.

Resources
- Increasing dedicated capacity to support further development of the public health approach to serious youth violence
- Developing a definition of and response plans for clusters of incidents.

Data
- Coordinated analysis of data and intelligence, including lower level data, record linkage and the new Emergency Care Dataset (ECDS)
- Improved hospital A&E data-sharing quality and use
- London Councils resource hub