

Note of Meeting

Reducing Reoffending Board

30th November 2023, 10:00-12:00

MS Teams

Chair: Director of Commissioning & Partnerships (MOPAC)

1. Welcomes, apologies

Attendees:

MOPAC

VRU

LP

NHS

LB Camden

MPS

Clinks

London Crown Courts

London Councils

LB Haringey

YJB

Apologies:

DWP

DHSC

HMPS

2. Serious violence duty

MOPAC - The Serious Violence Duty represents a key strategic development in how partners collaborate to understand and address violence across London. There is a strong commitment to ensuring that this strategic approach is closely aligned with the work of the RRB, fostering broader crime reduction and strengthening links between local and statutory partners. Additionally, there is a shared approach between MOPAC and VRU. The VRU serves as the lead for the Serious Violence Duty in London, and they have been requested to lead this item today.

VRU – The duty came into force in January 2023, with local partnership arrangements leading on the duty. Collaborative efforts in London to address serious violence have been notable. A task and finish group, comprising individuals from various partnerships, determined that local Community Safety Partnerships would oversee this initiative. The Home Office tasked the group with defining serious violence, and after working together, the definition includes aspects of public realm violence and violence against women and girls.

Several key points were outlined concerning the strategic assessment of serious violence in London. A Home Office requirement for a data-sharing and analytical process has been set, with boroughs working on delivering this by January 2024. Discussions have centered on cross-border and cross-borough collaboration, with funding from the Home Office supporting local authorities in various ways, including data analytics and service delivery. Emphasis has been placed on the collaborative nature of this initiative, involving Community Safety Partnerships and aiming to build on existing plans while exploring additional measures.

London is making progress and is on track to meet the end-of-January deadline, anticipating tangible outcomes from the collaborative efforts. Task and finish groups are actively engaging in multi-agency partnership discussions concerning the serious violence duty.

LB Haringey– Haringey has been working closely with the VRU over the last year, developing needs assessments and driving this forward. Some thought should be given to how this aligns with other work streams, considering the potential crossover, especially around violence. It's important to stress that local authorities are facing challenges in terms of resourcing.

VRU - There is a need to explore and understand the intersections between various aspects in the local space. They express curiosity about the points of connection, differences, and the roles played by different entities in service interventions related to substance misuse and mental health. Recognising the overlap between vulnerability and potential violence, the speaker suggests that further work is required.

3. Integrated Offender Management

MOPAC - The purpose of this item is to start with a strategic recap of progress in IOM over the last 4 years, which will then lead to a broader discussion on next steps and learning.

- IOM is an area where a shared decision in 2019 led to a change in focus for London that combines the traditional focus on persistent (usually acquisitive crime) with a specific method of focusing on those who pose the highest risk of repeat violence, so fits in well with the focus on this meeting.
- We recognise and are grateful for the commitment of all partners in the last 4 years to support and develop London IOM, which is now recognised nationally as an example of good practice, especially with regards to partnership integration.

- IOM offenders have a massive impact on crime in London, in the two years prior to involvement with IOM the latest cohort were charged with over 48,000 offences over two years, which is an average of 6.4 offences per person per year.

In terms of governance, the IOM Steering Group reports in to RRB, so this is a good chance to look at what work has been done and for us to set the direction for future development or think about where this approach might be replicated.

4. Joint partnership work to tackle serious violence

YJB – Raised a point about how children are identified in that index and how information about those children is shared with youth justice services and local authorities. This allows them to consider the efforts they are putting in, similar to the approach taken with IOM initiatives.

MPS- If individuals are present in crime reports and intelligence reports, they will be featured. The team then proceeds to filter out those who are already included in MAPPA and other programs in terms of data sharing.

5. Update on the recommissioning of Restorative Justice Services

- LVWS is in the process of being recommissioned with a disaggregated RJ service. This new RJ service will fit into the wider ecosystem of victim support.
- Initial conversations with RJ providers and other PCCs have all emphasised the need to work closely with Probation and MPS. Both organisations use and refer into MOPAC's commissioned RJ service but have not previously been involved in the design and commissioning of it.
- Closer working with both Probation and MPS could help to address some of the challenges we have seen in the previous service including, low budget, lack of awareness of RJ, low referral rates, delays in communication and difficulty accessing data all of which impact on the impact of the service for London.
- MPS RJ team are dedicated to RJ and want to work closely with newly commissioned service for both delivery and training purposes.