

Report for:	NOTING
Item Number:	

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
Title	Ealing Serious Violence Strategy
Responsible Officer(s)	Nicky Fiedler (Strategic Director, Housing & Environment)
Author(s)	Jess Murray (Assistant Director, Community Protection)
Portfolio(s)	Tackling Inequalities
For Consideration By	Cabinet
Date to be Considered	6 March 2024
Implementation Date if Not Called In	12 March 2024
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse, Young People, Sexual Violence, Knife Crime, Safer Ealing Partnership, Police

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to update cabinet on the Borough's Serious Violence Strategy and confirm compliance with the new Serious Violence Duty, which is a requirement of the Safer Ealing Partnership (SEP), acting as the Borough's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as set out in the *Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (2022)*.

The strategy pulls together several separate approaches across the Council and wider partnership to target and reduce serious violence in the borough.

The report also outlines the strategic needs assessment undertaken as part of developing the new serious violence strategy.

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- i. Review and note the contents of the Serious Violence Strategy 2024;
- ii. Review and note the outcome of needs assessment undertaken as part of the development of strategy;
- iii. Note the Safer Ealing Partnerships' compliance with the Serious Violence Duty;

2. Background

2.1 Ealing's Serious Violence strategy has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD), introduced by the *Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act (2022)*. The Duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and production of a strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.

2.2 The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.

2.3 The responsible authorities (also known as 'duty holders') in the Serious Violence Duty will be:

- the Police
- fire and rescue authorities
- justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- local authorities

2.4 Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions will be under a separate duty to co-operate with duty holders, but they are not duty holders. The strategy takes account of guidance issued by the government, as well as London guidance, developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit, in collaboration with London Councils, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London and Probation Service.

2.5 The strategy sets out the agreed definition of Serious Violence for the borough, summarises the key aspects of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, the partnership arrangements that have been agreed locally to lead on delivery of the duty, the areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence, and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities - including young people, as well as businesses.

3. Definition of Serious Violence

3.1 The *Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act (2022)* provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism. In considering serious violence within their area, specified authorities should encompass serious violence as defined for the purposes of the government's Serious Violence Strategy and include a focus on issues such as public space youth violence. The government's Serious Violence Strategy sets out specific types of crime of concern, including homicide, violence against the person (which may

include both knife crime and gun crime), and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing. These crimes should be at the core of the Serious Violence Duty for the purpose of its reduction and prevention. Whilst the government guidance sets out types of violence that should be incorporated within the definition of serious violence, there is no definition provided and it allows each local area to define serious violence.

3.2 It is important that there is consistency across London, to ensure that analysis of violence and the Strategic Needs Assessment are comprehensive and comply with the duty. The London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has therefore collaborated with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), London Councils, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London and Probation Service to develop *London Guidance* to support local areas in how they implement the duty.

3.3 The *London Guidance* advises that Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in London, is defined as:

“Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.”

3.4 Domestic abuse is as defined in the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#). In Ealing we have agreed to adopt this definition of serious violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty.

4. Local Partnership Arrangements

4.1 Within the Duty it is for the specified authorities to come together to decide on the appropriate lead and structure of collaboration for their area. The government guidance references the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP), or other partnerships such as the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, Criminal Justice boards or Health and Wellbeing boards. It also suggests it may also be the case that collaboration via several different partnership structures is preferred depending on the local context.

4.2 Of the statutory partnership arrangements, only the Community Safety Partnership has all the “duty holders” within its membership, and it is not restricted by the age criteria for children and adult safeguarding partnerships.

4.3 In Ealing, we confirm that we are following the London guidance and the Safer Ealing Partnership, our local CSP, will be the lead partnership for implementation and ensuring compliance with the Duty. This includes ownership over and monitoring of this strategy, which brings together and builds upon several existing strategies, as illustrated below.

4.4 The findings of the Strategic Needs Assessment and subsequent Serious Violence strategy, as agreed up the Safer Ealing Partnership are set out in more detail in Appendix 1. Ealing's Serious Violence Strategy

5 Consultation

5.1 The Serious Violence Strategy was developed with partners across the Safer Ealing Partnership, which includes Council services like Community Safety, Social Care and Public Health. External partnership members include Police, Probation, NHS and London Fire Brigade (LFB).

6 Financial implications

6.1 There are no significant additional financial requirements stemming from the strategy or needs assessment, the works undertaken or proposed within the strategy will be delivered from within existing service budgets across the partnership.

7 Legal implications

7.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, and the related statutory guidance published in December 2022, establishes a duty on specified authorities for a local government area to collaborate with each other to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. The Council is a specified authority.

7.2 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 also requires every local authority to have arrangements to oversee the work of the members of the Safer Communities Partnership. The Safer Ealing Partnership has been set up for this purpose.

7.3 In agreeing Ealing's Serious Violence Strategy 2024, the Safer Ealing Partnership confirmed it is satisfied the Council is meeting its duty.

8 Community Safety

8.1 The plan sets out a clear area of focus for the Council and wider partnership in tackling and reducing serious violence, and in particular, violence affecting more vulnerable groups like young people and women.

9 Links to the Council's Priorities

9.1 Action to tackle violent crime and protect victims is a clear priority through the Council plan and underpins the wider Council priority of *Tackling Inequality*.

10 Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

10.1 One of key consideration of the needs assessment is considering equalities and the effect of violent crime on key parts of our community.

11 Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications

11.1 There are no proposed changes to Council staff or workforce within the outlined proposal.

12 Property and assets

12.1 There are no implications for Council property or assets stemming from this report.

13 Any other implications

13.1 There are no additional implications to Cabinet approving the proposals within this report that have not been addressed within the key implications outlined above.

14 Timetable

14.1 The completed strategy was agreed by the Safer Ealing Partnership in January 2024 and the strategy made public on both Ealing Council's website and *Safer Ealing* website on 31 January as required by the Serious Violence Duty. The Safer Ealing Partnership will review the duty annually and update and change the strategy as and when the needs assessment and working practices require.

15 Appendices

Appendix 1: Ealing Serious Violence Duty Strategy

Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent to consultee	Date response received	Comments appear in paragraph:
Internal				
Justin Morley	Head of Legal Services	06/01/2024	15/02/2024	Throughout
Nicky Fiedler	Strategic Director, Strategic Director, Housing & Environment	06/01/2024	10/01/2024	
Jess Murray	Assistant Director, Community Protection	06/01/2024	08/01/2024	
Multiple	SLT	10/01/2024	11/01/2024	
External				
Safer Ealing Partnership		20/01/2024	30/01/2024	

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Key decision	No
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries: