



NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE
Community Safety Partnership



Serious Violence Duty Local Delivery Strategy

North East Lincolnshire

Introduction

The Serious Violence Duty commenced on 31 January 2023, requiring specified authorities (most of which are also members of the Humber Violence Prevention Partnership) to work together to share information, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.

As part of this, serious violence was made an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), which must have a strategy in place to tackle serious violence by January 2024

The Humber Violence Prevention Partnership (HVPP)

The HVPP is one of 20 violent reduction units within the United Kingdom. It has been operating since 2020 with Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as the chair of the board.

The HVPP operates a 'Hub and Spoke' operating model with each of the unitary authorities within the Humber region and each authority, including North East Lincolnshire, has a HVPP representative working to help deliver the HVPP strategy.

Since commencing the HVPP has commissioned interventions across the Humber and written an in-depth Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and Response Strategy to understand what violence is in the Humber region and to plan how to tackle and reduce serious violence.

The Serious Violence Duty

In 2018 the Government produced a Serious Violence Strategy in response to rising rates of knife crime, gun crime and homicides particularly amongst the 16 – 25 age group.

The strategy had 4 main themes.

- Tackling County Lines drug issues
- Early intervention and prevention
- Supporting communities and partnerships
- Law enforcement and the criminal justice response.

The strategy focuses on *early intervention and prevention* which can help catch young people before they go down the wrong path, encouraging them to make positive choices.

In January 2023 the Serious Violence Duty came into force mandating local authorities to work with specified partners to address and reduce serious violence in their local areas.

The Duty specified partnerships should focus on three main outcomes.

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object, and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence, and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction in all non-domestic homicides, and especially victims under 25 involving knives.

What is Violence and Serious Violence?

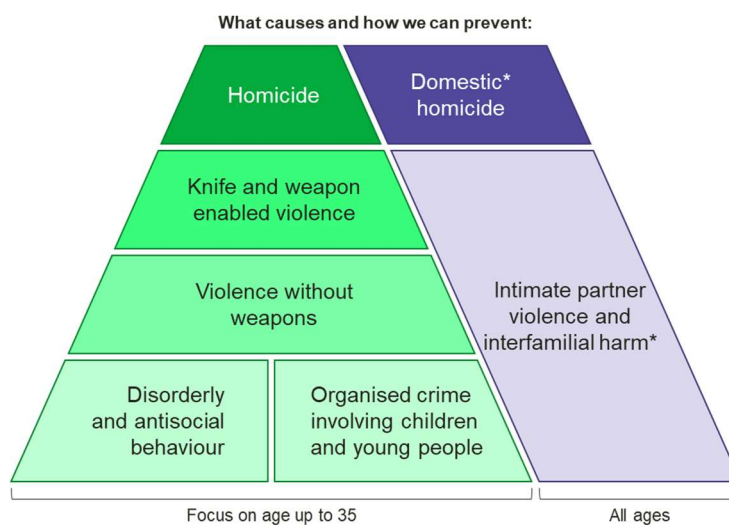
The Humber VPP has adopted the World Health Organisation definition of *violence* which is -

“The intentional use of physical force or power threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation”.

Their definition of Serious violence is – “Violence which consists of the following headline crime types”.

- Homicide
- Violence against the person (public space)
- Robbery
- Possession of a weapon
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual offences
- Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Child exploitation and county lines
- Modern slavery
- Organised crime groups

The **proposed scope** though for the Humber VPP is -



There are existing multi agency public health strategies and partnerships in relation to domestic homicide and Interfamilial violence/harm which the HVPP will monitor

North East Lincolnshire has defined serious violence *and serious youth violence* as consisting of the following crime types:

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Wounding or grievous bodily harm with intent
- Grievous bodily harm
- Weapon crime
- Robbery

However North East Lincolnshire takes the view that there are a number of other 'pre cursor' type offences which should be monitored in relation to serious youth violence in order understand how these types of crime can escalate into more serious offences.

In terms of serious youth violence monitoring these pre-cursor offences enable partners to intervene and take appropriate action when they escalate above normal levels.

These are:

- Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
- Common Assault
- Having an article of bladed or point on school or college grounds.
- Possession of an offensive weapon
- Possession of an offensive weapon on educational premises.
- Youth related anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Priorities for North East Lincolnshire

The North East Lincolnshire partnership will tackle serious violence by focusing on three priorities.

Serious Youth Violence	Violence Against Women and Girls	Night Time Economy
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Serious Youth Violence

The aim within North East Lincolnshire through partnership working is to reduce the following in our parks and open spaces in North East Lincolnshire.

- Reduce the threat of youth related anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Reduce the escalation of ASB to public order offences.
- Reduce the threat of weapons being used by our young people.
- Reduce violent offences being committed in open spaces.
- Reduce serious youth violence.

How do we intend to achieve this?

- By having a specific Serious Youth Violence Strategy addendum to compliment the overarching full strategy.
- By using data from partners and us to understand the scale and nature of violence and serious youth violence within this authority.
- By adopting the Serious Violence Duty theme of identifying and then engaging with young people using *early interventions, appropriate diversions and prevention* in order to break the cycle of offending that young people can fall into.
- By developing and driving a robust operational delivery plan which clearly maps out partner responsibility and the progress of initiatives, programs and workstreams.
- By supporting the Humber Violence Prevention Partnership and maximising the opportunities a strategic violence reduction unit brings to this authority.
- By supporting young people who have increased risk factors making them more vulnerable to being a victim or offender of serious violence including care leavers and young people transitioning from youth to adult justice pathways.
- By responding to urgent contextual safeguarding issues as they arise, working with partners to keep young people safe and supported.

Violence Against Women and Girls

The aim is to cultivate an improved social environment, through partnership working, to reduce the following in *addition to those crimes falling under the definition of serious violence*.

- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Exposure and voyeurism
- Harassment
- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Sexual grooming
- Stalking

How do we intend to achieve this?

Firstly by continuing to develop a current strong partnership arrangement which is already tackling issues around violence against women and girls.

This group will focus on the following themes.

- Consulting and engaging with local women and girls about their feeling of safety.
- Engaging with children and young people to guide societal norms and tackle the culture of acceptance at the very earliest opportunity.
- Enhancing community safety measures in the local area
- Raising awareness within our communities around violence, harassment, and consent
- Encouraging victims to report earlier and providing appropriate support when they do.
- Increasing the safety of women and girls within the Grimsby Town Centre night time economy as part of a new programme of initiatives including the introduction of safer streets ambassadors and improved safety enroute to onward travel home.

Night Time Economy

In relation to serious violence definitions the partnership believes that the night time economy carries the greatest risk of serious injury for the older age groups sitting outside of the serious youth violence age bracket.

To that end the aims in relation to the NTE are to achieve reductions relating to -

- Violence with injury in the night time economy (18:00 – 05:59, excluding domestic abuse)
- Violence without injury in the night time economy (18:00 – 05:59, excluding domestic abuse)

How do we intend to achieve this?

- By improving community safety measures within the night time economy
- By increasing awareness around excessive alcohol consumption and substance misuse
- By delivering targeted enforcement action to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in licensed premises and enforcing legislation around serving intoxicated persons.
- By reducing the incidents of alcohol fuelled violence and reducing the impact of this on health services
- Implementing a new programme of initiatives within the Grimsby Town Centre night-time economy which includes better CCTV coverage, NTE Ambassadors and an extension of the 'GRIP' initiative to include pubs and clubs.
- By having a bespoke night time economy plan for the Cleethorpes Town Centre.
- By promoting the 'LSavi' safety initiative to licenced premises to support their efforts to keep customers safe.
- By offering 'WAVE' training to licensees and their staff in order for them to respond appropriately to emerging issues.

The 6P Delivery Plan

This will cover serious youth violence and violence relating to those over 25 years but will be complimented by a bespoke serious youth violence strategy and delivery plan in relation to youth justice.

The plan is currently being developed with partners and ties in with regional and local strategic needs assessments (SNA) produced by the Humber VPP in relation to the Humber region and a local SNA produced by North East Lincolnshire.

Prepare relates to obtaining relevant data or around serious violence and then developing data sharing arrangements with partners who hold this information. Once this has been obtained it should be incorporated within the local SNA and used to shape the response strategy and delivery plan.

Prevent is the group of actions intended to stop adverse activities taking place. It is a primary prevention activity and in the context of serious violence this refers to building resilience in individuals and communities.

Protect actions focus on specific areas of concern whether that be places, sections of the community or crime trends where interventions can reduce crime geographically, increase the safety of specific community groups and reduce risk of harm. Examples include safe spaces for young people, combatting violence against women and girls and emerging contextual safeguarding areas of concern.

Pursue actions focus on the catch and convict element of violent crime reduction which include bringing offenders to justice, management of serious investigations and wanted persons.

People actions relate to how we consult the Community in order to ascertain what is important to people, where the real problems are and ask community members for their ideas and thoughts on how to make NEL safer. People also focusses on how we can support communities and professionals with training offers.

Partnerships actions centre on which local and Humber wide partnerships can contribute to the objectives of the Local Serious Violence strategy and delivery plan, what current arrangements are in place and future planning.

Problem Solving and the OSARA Model

To be successfully implemented through the 6P delivery plan this Strategy must be supported by a problem-solving culture with strong proactive leadership.

Leaders will need to foster and help evolve a culture that is committed to learning and improvement and that is not afraid to challenge existing activity and performance.

Everyone from senior leaders through to front line practitioners right across our partnership has a key role to play in how can prevent serious violence across our communities.

To support this further, the use of the OSARA model, also referred to as Problem Orientated Police (POP), will encourage everybody to ask the right questions and generate the right information to support evidence-based delivery while also promoting learning and continuous improvement.



Local governance structure

The serious violence 6P delivery plan will be discharged through three thematic multi-agency workstreams as follows:

- Night time economy task group – led by Supt. Ops Humberside Police.
- Violence against women and girls task group – currently chaired by Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Hospital Trust.
- Youth violence – through existing partnership structures, to be led by the Youth Justice Manager for North East Lincolnshire Council.

These groups will report to the CSP board on a rotating basis with the CSP receiving an update on an aspect of serious violence each quarter.