

---

**Meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

**Safer Dudley – Strategy to prevent violence in Dudley**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to share the current Violence Prevention Strategy with Members and to share proposals for a revised Strategy to take into account the new Serious Violence Duty.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that: -
  - The contents of the report are noted
  - Members contribute to the development of a revised Violence Prevention and Reduction Strategy
  - Consideration is given to the submission of further reports

**Background**

3. Safer Dudley – Strategy to Prevent Violence in Dudley is a Strategy that was developed through safe & sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Board. The aim of the Strategy is to provide a framework to prevent and reduce violence through a public health approach.
4. The Strategy was developed following a broad range of consultation and engagement opportunities which included: -
  - Play Week – “pop up” sessions in Hunting tree and Silver Jubilee Park
  - Work at the Black Country Wellbeing Hub
  - Work with group of college students studying for Public Services qualification

- Work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Group at the WHAT Centre.
  - World Café Events
  - A session at the Carers Group at the Dudley Hub,
  - A session at The Over 50s Forum
  - A session at Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG's) Health Care Forum
  - Online survey
  - Work was shared with Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership
5. Engagement took an asset-based approach, starting from the basis that Dudley Borough was the safest Borough in the Black Country in relation to violent crime and looked at how we can work together to keep it that way.
  6. Engagement approaches were chosen in order to include a broad demographics and also specific communities who may be or feel more at risk of violence including young people, older people, LGBTQ, Black, Minority Asian Ethnic (BAME) communities, people with disabilities and women.
  7. The aim was to launch the Strategy in April 2020 and to further engage with communities in respect of the implementation of the Strategy. However, with the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic a formal launch of the Strategy did not take place neither did further community engagement work.

### **Violence Prevention Strategic Group**

8. The Violence Prevention Strategic Group is a sub-group of safe & sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership). The Group has sought to coordinate a response to preventing and reducing violence within Dudley Borough through a variety of approaches.
9. The Group have worked with the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit to deliver a place-based pilot in St James's Ward. Work has been coordinated by a Community Navigator who brought together a range of stakeholders who have met fortnightly since September 2020 to share best practice and address concerns.
10. It was envisaged that the pilot would have a Team Around the Community approach with Meadow Road Youth Centre being a hub for some of the work to take place and to enable engagement with communities and build capacity and resilience. This approach has not been taken forward yet due to COVID 19. Options are being explored to utilise this approach when it is safe to do so.
11. Some interventions were "commissioned" through funding made available from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to support the work of the pilot. These interventions were delivered from January 2021 to March 2021. These were Lived Experience Mentoring (including substance misuse interventions and training) and support for parents.

## **Review of Safer Dudley – Strategy to Prevent Violence in Dudley – Next Steps**

12. The Strategy has been reviewed at a recent meeting of safe & sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) Board and Priority Leads which focussed on violence prevention and reduction. There was a focus on youth violence through the presentation of data and case studies.
13. Changes to the Strategy will include: -
  - The requirements of the new Serious Violence Duty (part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing Bill)
  - An overview of the Social Ecological Model – to help promote understanding of the interplay of individual, relationship, community and societal factors and the range of factors that can put people at risk of violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrator violence
  - Be more trauma informed
  - Have an asset based, community development to its implementation
14. The role and the membership of the Violence Prevention Strategic Group will be reviewed.

### **Finance**

15. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

### **Law**

16. The Violence Prevention Strategy will assist the Local Authority and partners in meeting obligations in respect of:
  - Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its subsequent amendments
  - Violence Crime Reduction Act 2006
  - Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill when it receives Royal Assent to become an Act

### **Risk Management**

17. There are no material risks linked to proposals within this report

### **Equality Impact**

18. In respect of the current Strategy a preliminary Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out for the listening campaign and other work. It highlighted the need to ensure that the listening activity and consultations included those who may feel or be more at risk of experiencing violence including BAME, LGBTQ, older people, young people, disabled communities and those already involved in the criminal justice system. This was been incorporated into the listening campaign and other work.

19. The further development of a Violence Prevention and Reduction Strategy for the Borough will have positive outcomes for children and young people. These will include resilience building and overall health and wellbeing and community safety outcomes. Children and young people will be consulted in the development of the Violence Prevention Strategy.

### **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

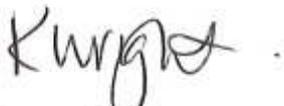
20. Whilst this report does not have any immediate organisational development/HR or transformational implications, it is important to build the confidence of the workforce in respect of a range of issues that are included within the current Strategy and that will be included in the new Strategy, for example working in a trauma informed way and taking an asset based community development approach to working.

### **Commercial/Procurement**

21. There are no commercial or procurement implications arising directly from this report.

### **Council Priorities**

22. The current and new Strategy links with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Aspiration with the Borough Vision 2030 – Forging a Future for All ‘#HOME Of Warm Welcomes and Close-Knit Communities’ - A place of healthy, resilient, safe communities with high aspirations and the ability to shape their own future
23. The work of the Violence Prevention and Reduction Strategic Group links in with the Council Plan particularly in respect of Safer and Stronger Communities
24. The Council and other Responsible Authorities have a Statutory Duty to “deliver” in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998



**Karen Wright**  
**Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

Contact Officer: Sue Haywood – Head of Community Safety, Telephone: 01384 818115  
Email: [sue.haywood@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:sue.haywood@dudley.gov.uk)

Maggi Morris – Consultant in Public Health  
Email: [maggi.morris@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:maggi.morris@dudley.gov.uk)

### **Appendix**

Appendix 1 – Safer Dudley – Strategy to Prevent Violence in Dudley

### **List of Background Documents**

Draft Serious Violence Duty - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill>

