

**ONE STOCKPORT SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (OSSP) SERIOUS VIOLENCE
STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PLAN 2024/25**

Report of the Director of Strategy

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced the concept of the Serious Violence Duty which places a duty on specified authorities¹ to plan and collaborate to prevent and tackle serious violence in their local area. It requires them to work together, using existing partnerships where possible, to share information and take effective coordinated action within their local communities. The duty started on 31st January 2023 and specified authorities have 12 months to deliver on mandatory requirements.
- 1.2 One of these requirements is for partners to collaborate to undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) regarding violence-related issues in their local area. The purpose of the SNA is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the extent and nature of serious violence in their area in order to identify local priorities.
- 1.3 Findings of the SNA should then be used to inform development of a plan to address the identified issues.

2. One Stockport Safety Partnership Serious Violence SNA

- 2.1 In Stockport, this work has been undertaken through the One Stockport Safety Partnership (OSSP)². It has drawn on data and intelligence relating (directly and indirectly) to serious violence in the Borough of Stockport from a range of sources in order to identify key serious violence issues in the borough.
- 2.2 The following three broad themes emerged from the SNA
- Violence affecting children and young people.
 - Domestic and gender-based abuse.
 - Non-domestic adult violence.
- 2.3 The SNA identified a number of key issues within each of these themes and also existing work that is already underway relating to these issues.

¹ Specified authorities are Police, Fire & Rescue Services, Local Authorities, Youth Offending Services and Integrated Care Systems (previously Clinical Commissioning Groups)

² OSSP is the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) covering the Borough of Stockport. CSPs were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities. Police, Fire & Rescue Services, Local Authorities, Health Partners, and Probation Services are required by law to be members of CSPs, but membership need not be restricted to these statutory partners.

2.4 Crucially however, the SNA also proposed a range of **additional** actions to address identified issues, over and above those that already underway. These additional actions were discussed at the OSSP Board meeting on 14th December 2023 and the Board agreed a proposal that they be used as the basis for a Serious Violence Plan for 2024/25.

2.5 It is important to recognise however that OSSP is currently working to a three-year plan addressing the full range of community safety issues, including serious violence. That plan runs to 31st March 2025. OSSP has therefore agreed the following approach to its activity relating to addressing serious violence:

- A Serious Violence Plan 2024/25 will be developed based on the **additional** activities recommended by the Serious Violence SNA.
- During 2024/25, an overall SNA will be undertaken to inform the development of OSSP's next three-year plan (2025-2028). Serious violence will be a specific strand within that work.
- From 2025/26 however, the serious violence SNA and plan will be incorporated into OSSP's processes for developing, delivering and monitoring its overall action plans (though serious violence will be a discrete element within these processes).

3. GM Serious Violence Strategy

3.1 A GM-wide SNA was also undertaken during 2023, which helped inform OSSP's SNA work.

3.2 Its main purpose however was to inform production of the GM Serious Violence Strategy ("[Greater than Violence](#)"), which was launched on 12th December 2023. This strategy is developed around two "pillars" ("Prevention" and "Response") and five "guiding principles":

- Principle 1 - Community-Led Approach.
- Principle 2 - Early and Timely Intervention.
- Principle 3 - Partnerships for Change.
- Principle 4 - Equality, Equity and Justice.
- Principle 5 - Trauma-Responsive City-Region.

3.3 OSSP has agreed that, as far as is practicable, it will seek to ensure that its activity relating to serious violence aligns with, or at the very least is consistent with, these GM pillars and principles.

4. Proposed additional activity for OSSP Serious Violence Plan 2024/25

4.1 As stated above, OSSP has agreed that the **additional** actions identified in the SNA will form the basis of its Serious Violence Plan for 2024/25. This additional activity is set out in the table below, by broad theme (as well as by a number of issues within each theme).

Theme	Issue	Additional activity proposed
Violence affecting children and young people	Youth Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Detached Youth Work Team has bid for funds relating to two areas with higher than average levels of antisocial behaviour. • Another bid aimed at addressing antisocial behaviour has been submitted relating to intergenerational provision, bringing together young people and older people in Brinnington. • Developing and delivering work with parents aimed at raising their awareness of issues relating to young people and violent crime, and what to do if their children experience or witness such crimes.
	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering routes of youth engagement in education settings. • Developing and implementing a joint safety campaign aimed at school students to reduce their vulnerability to personal robbery in public spaces, including routes to and from school.
	Young people and crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector3's Violence Reduction Alliance Facilitator has undertaken a series of community engagement events, focusing principally on Adswold and Bridgehall. The final report on that engagement exercise will be shared with OSSP and the partnership should consider the implications of the final report and any action it needs to undertake or commission as a result.
Domestic and gender-based abuse		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More work to be done with victims of domestic abuse as this made up a significant proportion of violence with injury offences.
Non-domestic adult violence	Adult justice/probation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSSP is developing a Reducing Reoffending Board which will be chaired by Probation. The first meeting of this board is likely to take place early in 2024, once membership has been established. Serious violence cases will be a standard agenda item which will allow for a specific focus on probation data and the issues which relates to this cohort to be identified and addressed through a partnership approach. Any challenges, blockages, issues from the board will be escalated to OSSP.
	Substance misuse related violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockport will receive additional funding of £678,070 for 2024/25 via the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant. As part of the grant allocation, we will be setting targets and developing a 2024/25 delivery plan. • There is a need to do more to ensure substance misuse issues remain high on the OSSP agenda and ensuring OSSP agencies prioritise and are fully engaged in this work.

Theme	Issue	Additional activity proposed
Non-domestic adult violence	County Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMP completed a Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile for Stockport district in December 2023. At the time of writing, this is awaiting sign-off from GMP's Director of Intelligence. A task for early 2024 therefore will be ensure OSSP's Serious Violence Action Plan reflects any threats identified within the Local Profile.
	Personal Robbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased police presence on the J1F1 Brinnington Beat. • More crime prevention and encouragement in knife-related personal robbery hotspots (including knife-related robbery hotspots), regarding carrying valuable items. Work with school-age children and focusing on routes to and from school would be likely priorities. • Raise awareness on social media regarding meeting up with strangers, as this has led to a number of knife-related personal robberies.
	Violence with injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased police presence on the J1F1 Brinnington Beat. • More crime prevention and encouragement in knife-related personal robbery hotspots, regarding carrying valuable items. • Knife amnesty bins in high footfall areas and knife crime hotspots to encourage offenders to hand over their weapons. • Raising awareness on social media regarding meeting up with strangers, as this has led to a number of knife-related personal robberies.
	Knife and weapons related crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More crime prevention and encouragement in knife-related personal robbery hotspots, regarding carrying valuable items. • Knife amnesty bins in high footfall areas and knife crime hotspots to encourage offenders to hand over their weapons. • Raising awareness on social media regarding meeting up with strangers, as this has led to a number of knife-related personal robberies.
	NHS admissions and other data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennine Care has undertaken the NHS Violence Prevention self-assessment tool; this will inform and drive its work plan for 2024. The first action is a series of listening events with frontline staff. There is a rare and very small risk arising from mental health homicides (the last recorded incidences in Stockport were in 2014 and 2016).

5. Recommendations

Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the proposed additional actions for 2024/25 outlined in the tables in 4.1 above.
- b) Note OSSP's intention to use these proposed additional actions as the basis for its Serious Violence Plan for 2024/25.
- c) Note OSSP's proposed approach to serious violence assessment and planning beyond 2024/25, set out in 2.5 above – that is, to incorporate work relating to serious violence as a specific strand within its overall assessment and planning arrangements.

Further Information:

Contact officers for accessing background papers and discussing the report:

Alan Lawson, Strategy and Performance Manager
alan.lawson@stockport.gov.uk (07890 563587)

Jacqui Belfield-Smith, Youth Justice, Serious Violence Reduction & Targeted Youth Support Lead
jacqui.belfield-smith@stockport.gov.uk (07800 617 569)