



Serious Violence Strategy

2021-2024

MK Together Management Board

Version 1

Last updated: 9 July 2021



ITEM 6a

Serious Violence Strategy

Background

The Safer MK Partnership is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Milton Keynes. It forms part of the wider MK Together Partnership arrangements for community safety, safeguarding and the promotion of health and wellbeing.

The Partnership recently published a refreshed community safety strategy for 2021/22 which highlighted the prevention and reduction of serious violence as a local priority.

Through our annual strategic assessment, we know that youth violence linked to possible gang activity is a growing concern for the local community, and that this activity is strongly linked to drugs lines. Prior to the pandemic, Milton Keynes along with other parts of the country had seen an increase in the levels of reported violence and the proportion of violence attributed to young people has increased.

Our plans to tackle serious violence

This strategy sets our plans to tackle serious violence ahead of the forthcoming Serious Violence Duty. The strategy outlines a whole system approach to understanding and responding to the causes and consequences of serious violence. It has been developed in partnership with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

This strategy covers serious violence, by which we mean:

- **Any incident in which a person of 25 or under is found in possession of a knife.**
- **An eligible incident with a weapon linked (bladed, non-bladed or firearms) including violence against the person, burglary, robbery, sexual offences, public order)**
- **Any incident of alleged GBH or more serious**
- **Any incident where a person 25 or under is alleged to be involved in PWITS or concerned in the supply of drugs.**

A. Governance		
	Actions	Suggested Activities:
1	Agree approach utilising MK Together Partnership arrangements as to which affiliated Boards and existing mechanisms will enable progress to be made ensuring alignment with Safer MK strategic priorities.	Consider at Tasking Board in the first instance to agree content and approach
2	Agree reporting and monitoring arrangements of plan to ensure progress or address issues of concern/delay.	Consider quarterly monitoring at Assurance Board

B. Shared Information and Intelligence		
	Actions	Suggested Activities:
3	An understanding of the reasons why children go missing at both individual and strategic level to inform the degree of convergence or divergence with other factors affecting exploitation risks and vulnerabilities.	Explore through Risk Board, Strategic Exploitation Panel and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
4	Multi agency information and intelligence is gathered and shared to identify children who are vulnerable to exploitation, to map hotspots, trends and risks in missing episodes, victim and perpetrator identification and criminal activity involving exploited children including County Lines.	TVP Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) working with Head of Customer Data and Insight at MK Council to share data onto Thames Valley Together platform. Partnership to agree what information they would need to be presented back.

B. Shared Information and Intelligence

	Actions	Suggested Activities:
5	Development of a vulnerability profile to include exploitation and missing/exclusion incidents, that is regularly updated to enable strategic opportunities to target individuals, locations or themes where increased concerns have been identified.	Evolving through CMET (Child Missing Exploitation Trafficked) meetings and raised at Strategic Boards as necessary
6	Confidentiality must not prevent the sharing of information that could safeguard a child. All agencies understand their responsibility and have pathways for effective information sharing	MK Together Partnership arrangements regularly reviewed to ensure agreement
7	Vulnerabilities around key transitions are identified and understood and partners take account of these in planning appropriate responses to strengthen steps to safeguard those individuals or groups identified as particularly vulnerable.	Transition Board in place between Children and Adult Services - requirement to ensure understanding of vulnerabilities across partnerships
8	Effective information and communication is shared with other Local Authorities and external partners to ensure that Milton Keynes children placed in other areas, or moving regularly across the Borough boundaries, and children from other local authorities placed or housed in Milton Keynes are effectively safeguarded from exploitation.	Processes embedded in Children's Safeguarding Unit for Out of County placements and for children placed from other Local Authorities.

C. Early intervention/prevention

	Actions	Suggested Activities:
9	The safety of young people and vulnerable adults is prioritised across the partnerships including partner agencies and community leaders and that this is reflected and owned within their respective strategic ambitions.	Ensure this is embedded in ongoing priorities of the Safeguarding partners
10	A contextual safeguarding approach is used so that risks are identified, understood and managed in the systems and context in which they live, and recognise the valuable contributions of their wider support networks.	Contextual safeguarding approaches are being overseen by the Children's Services Safeguarding Unit from June 2021 and any learning to be progressed through involvement of Independent Safeguarding Chairs
11	All agencies adopt an early help intervention approach (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary) for children at risk of experiencing adversity to reduce the child's vulnerability to serious violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding and mapping of diversionary activities currently available for young people in the primary, secondary and tertiary space • Engaging with local disengaged young people. Multi agency plan to deliver the services that young people want in hotspot localities. • Drug diversion scheme. • Multi agency approach to delivery of appropriate support to young people at risk in making informed and positive choices. • Joint partnership plan to reduce school exclusion. • Whole family support in place for those at risk of exclusion
12	Professionals, wider workforces, community and faith groups staff are knowledgeable in trauma informed practice to be able to identify and respond effectively to those who are vulnerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training need? What does this look like in practice? • Staff are trauma informed and aware of the impact of adverse childhood experiences on young people

C. Early intervention/prevention

	Actions	Suggested Activities:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local systems and processes are responsive seeking to reduce further trauma on young people.

D. Drugs/County Lines

	Actions	Suggested Activities:
13	Increase understanding and awareness of Drug lines running through MK and develop disruption response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi agency strategy in place to tackle drugs and reduce harm• Shared understanding and agreement of outcomes sought and processes to monitor performance• Local approach informed by relevant data and intelligence
14	Develop proactive operations targeting identified individuals and groups identified as engaged in county drug lines activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug dealing organised crime gangs are mapped, scored and appropriate management plans in place• Multiagency meetings/Information sharing, Tactical Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG)/Joint tasking meetings with systems for prioritisation based on risk and monitoring.• Local Police plans in place to proactively target those county drug lines causing greatest risk
15	Ensure delivery on dangers of county lines and drugs with school's curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration with schools in delivery of PHSE (Personal, Health, Social, Economic) approved packages for knife crime and County Lines.
16	Review of commissioned services in relation to drug use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared understanding of available drug services and treatment with identified pathways for referral.

D. Drugs/County Lines		
	Actions	Suggested Activities:
17	Strategic coordination of approaches to reduce vulnerability informed by risk data and liaison with missing exploitation hubs. MASH and relevant partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise focussed deterrence to identify and divert high-risk serious violence cohort. • Close co-ordination between social care, Youth Offending Team, Police and community diversion schemes to reduce identified risks.
18	Develop a custody intervention process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed systems and processes to refer young people into the MASH when identified or arrested as suspects for possession with intent to supply offences. • Safeguarding and diversion opportunities identified in custody.

E. Engagement and Community Support		
	Actions	Suggested Activities:
19	Enable the partnership approach to be informed by the voice of the community and young people to improve equity and inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and shaping of approach with Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and partners • Youth IAG in place and participating in development of approach • Community and lived experience representation at strategic board level and informing approach • Social media engagement strategy to reach disengaged young people
20	Development and communication of key messages to the community about knife crime and knife carrying. To include clear signposting of where to go for help and referral routes for services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared partnership knife crime and serious violence communication strategy

E. Engagement and Community Support		
	Actions	Suggested Activities:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused communication and delivery strategy aimed at young people to inform and educate young people of the risks and consequences of knife crime and serious violence.
21	Engage with local communities and those most at risk of violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Policing Teams working with Local Authority and Public Health England in engaging with local communities in line with Neighbourhood Policing Guidelines. • Approaches in place to identify and engage with those young people most at risk of violence and listen to their needs and concerns in shaping local delivery. • Utilisation of people with lived experience to effectively engage with disengaged young people • Community engagement programmes in place within identified local violence hotspots informed by local data and analytics.
22	Ensure local communities are enabled and empowered to be part of the solution to violence reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Neighbourhood Action Groups and Community Forums consulted and empowered to develop local solutions. • Local participatory budgeting programmes explored to enable local communities to develop solutions. • Local volunteer mentoring schemes developed to support young people on cusp of exclusion.
23	Ensure local communities are enabled and empowered to support those at the greatest risk of serious violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of community led navigator scheme in local Emergency Department, Hospital to support and divert those involved in knife crime and serious violence. • Local community led 'interrupter' and mediation schemes.

E. Engagement and Community Support

	Actions	Suggested Activities:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network of community led navigators working as a network of resilience builders.

F. Law Enforcement

	Actions	Suggested Activities:
24	Law enforcement (Police / Crown Prosecution Service) , Children’s Social Care, Education, Housing , Youth Offending Team and the voluntary sector proactively use existing legislative opportunities at their disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff have relevant knowledge and experience of antisocial behaviour (ASB) legislation and civil injunctions with interventions captured in auditable records (Risk management Occurrences (RMO))• Multi agency systems and processes in place to utilise ASB legislation and civil injunctions to reduce knife crime and serious violence.• Gang injunctions
25	Local plans are in place to develop proactive operations targeting identified individuals and groups engaged in knife crime or serious violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiagency meetings/Information sharing for example - TTCG/Joint tasking meetings with partners.• Planned operations/week of action• Risk are understood and managed in the appropriate meetings (Multi Agency Public Protection Awareness, Strategic Exploitation Panel etc)

F. Law Enforcement

	Actions	Suggested Activities:
26	What systems and processes will be in place to ensure stop and search is being used effectively whilst ensuring public confidence is retained	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the use of stop and search is intelligence led and monitored along with its outcomes and disproportionality.
27	Initiate disruption and reassurance patrols.	Consider use of section 60 (a power that allows the police to stop and search).