

Serious Violence Duty Strategy

London Borough of Waltham Forest

Appendix i

1.Serious Violence definition

Notes

A

Within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

- 1) This section defines “domestic abuse” for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if— (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are “personally connected” to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive. (3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following— (a) physical or sexual abuse; (b) violent or threatening behaviour; (c) controlling or coercive behaviour; (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4)); (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.
- (4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to — (a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or (b) obtain goods or services.
- (5) For the purposes of this Act, A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).
- (6) References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section. (7) For the meaning of “personally connected”,

It should be noted that in Chapter 3 of the Statutory Guidance of the act, it recognises that domestic abuse can encompass a range of behaviours, including abuse that is physical, violent or threatening behaviour, sexual abuse, controlling & coercive behaviour, harassment or stalking, economic abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse, technology-facilitated based, abuse relating to faith, ‘honour’-based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

B

With regards to ‘*violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25*,’ this encompasses those aged under 25 who are victims of offences; suspects/offenders for offences; or both. (aligned to home office Home Office “definition” of serious violence in their 2018 strategy)

C

Serious violence includes (but does not require) any of the defined offences where a knife, section one firearm or corrosive substance is used, threatened or intimidated.

2.Waltham Forest SafetyNet Partnership Arrangements:

- **Chair: Corporate Director of Community Safety and Resilience**
- Statutory partners, entitled to vote (represented by individual(s) with appropriate authority):
 - **London Borough of Waltham Forest**
 - Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods & Environment
 - Assistant Director Youth and Family Resilience (YJS)
 - Assistant Director for Housing
 - Assistant Director for Community Safety and Programmes
 - Assistant Director - MASH, Safeguarding and Family Support
 - Senior communications officer
 - Strategic Director of Families
 - Director of Public Health
 - Director of Early Help and Prevention
 - Director of Children's Social Care
 - Assistant Director for Early Help Delivery
 - Assistant Director of Enforcement and Safety
 - Head of Violence Reduction and Community Safety Programmes
 - Youth Engagement Principal Officer
 - Director of Education
 - Assistant Director of Post 16 and Operations
 - Assistant Director for Quality Assurance & Principle Reviewing Officer
 - Assistant Director for Adults Care and Quality Standards
 - Head of Strategic Partnerships
 - Head of Service, Settings and Workforce Safeguarding
 - ASB Team Manager
 - Head of Service for Adult Social Care
 - **Metropolitan Police, North East Basic Command Unit**
 - Borough Commander
 - Detective Superintendent (CID)
 - Superintendent & Inspector (Neighbourhoods)
 - Detective Chief Inspector (Gangs and Pro-Active Policing)
 - **NHS North East London Integrated Care Board**
 - Associate Director of Safeguarding (Barts Health)
 - Think Families Lead Nurse (Whipps Cross)
 - Associate Director for Safeguarding Children (NHS North East London Health and Care Partnership)
 - Professional Safeguarding Children (NELFT)
 - Named Professional – Safeguarding Adults (NELFT)
 - Mental Health Clinical Lead, Named GP for safeguarding children and adults.
 - Designated nurse for safeguarding children

- Designated nurse for safeguarding adults
 - Integrated Commissioning Manager
- **London Fire Brigade**
 - Borough Commander London Fire Brigade
- **HM Prisons & Probation Service**
 - Waltham Forest Assistant Chief Officer London Probation Service
 - HMP Pentonville
- Other attendees
 - **Young People Engagement**
 - Waltham Forest Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG)
 - Voices in Partnership (LBWF Criminal Justice Experienced young people)
 - Waltham Forest Children in Care Council
 - **Educational institutions**
 - Headteacher Special School & Alternative Provision
 - Head Teacher of Secondary School
 - College Principle
 - **VCS organisations**
 - Victim Support
 - Change Grow Live (Substance misuse providers)
 - Project Zero
 - Spark2Life
 - Worth Unlimited
 - BreakThaCycle
 - Youth Urban Art Fund
 - PinPoint
 - **Elected representatives**
 - Cabinet Member for Community Safety
 - Cabinet Member for Children

The quorum is one quarter of the total membership, plus the Chair. If this is not the case, then the meeting will not proceed. Membership of the Board will include other organisations and individuals as the SafetyNet partnership considers appropriate having consulted its Board partners. The Board may wish to invite additional partners to some meetings depending on the specific focus or to participate in its work more generally.

The VRP/VAWG sub groups adopt the financial year 1 April to 31 March. The Board will meet 4 times per year, and all arrangements will be formally reviewed annually in line with priority setting and forward planning.

3. List of Strategies consulted in the production of the SVD template and plan:

Michael Marmot Report

Violence is a cause and a consequence of health and other inequalities, and we will take a public health approach to tackling it.

The VRP was specifically cited as good local practice at using a public health approach to tackle violence and its root causes. We plan to utilise the reinvigorated VRP as a vehicle to contribute to some of the key recommendations (below) from the Marmot report:

- Commission universal personal health and wellbeing programmes for young people.
- Increase number of local youth spaces and activities aimed at young people.
- Improve the offer and communication of employment and training opportunities for young people.
- A public health approach to policing should involve the police and other partners in tackling the social determinants of crime and in early prevention. Waltham Forest's Violence Reduction Partnership has adopted this public health approach.
- Reduce those who witness or are victims of crime to improve direct and indirect health effects.
- Capacity building for the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise).

Sports & Leisure Strategy

In line with our council-wide approach, we are looking to harness the power of sport in engagement and skills development among priority groups. Community safety is seen as a barrier to participation in sport and leisure in the borough and as such is a priority. Members of the VRP have been involved in the development of the strategy, including to ensure a focus on children at risk of violence are considered and responded to, with the following proposals:

- Support to deliver diversionary activities for young people.
- Joint working with VCS to deliver programmes for young people.
- Longer term funding to VCS to support with capacity building/long term delivery of programmes.
- Improved partnership working to deliver sport and physical activity initiatives for young people.

15-Minute Neighbourhoods

Reducing fear of crime and violence and accessing services are key cornerstones of the 15 Minute Neighbourhood model, as is having strong working relationships with our partners and the community. Violent crime is also highly concentrated as is evidenced within our SNA, we will therefore ensure there is a strong hyper-local response. Shared priorities include:

- Reduce fear of crime.
- Build trust and confidence in statutory partners.

- Respond to local needs.
- Increase opportunities for young people to participate- such as Youth Forums.
- Collaborate with local partners.
- Support VCS with capacity building.

Combatting Drugs Partnership

The Waltham Forest Combatting Drugs Partnership is imminently publishing its Drug Strategy as required by the HM Government strategy From Harm to Hope. This will set out a whole system approach to tackling drug-related harms. Our local approach to protecting communities from harm by drugs is divided into three 'pillars':

1. Prevention: Taking universal and targeted action to reduce the number of people that use substances and experience (or are at risk of) substance-related harms.
2. Supply: Relentless disruption of drugs markets and tackling the harm they cause in communities.
3. Treatment: Prioritising evidence-based, cost effective interventions to prevent people from developing substance misuse problems.

Shared priorities/commitments include:- Increasing knowledge to partners, and the public.

- Targeting drug-related activity in and around housing estates
- Pursue High Harm Gang members, stabilising affected areas through increased visibility and improved community relations to prevent re-establishment of gangs
- Increasing proactive use of civil criminal orders
- Proactive Operations utilising overt and covert police activity
- Disrupt open drug dealing in the streets.
- Implementing a triage process to identify those offenders who cause the most harm to communities.

Inclusive Growth and Economy Strategy

An ambitious Inclusive Growth and Economy strategy is currently in development in Waltham Forest, with a vision to establish a thriving economy that gives everyone the opportunity to fulfil their potential and benefit from Waltham Forest's growth within planetary boundaries. The VRP we will be supporting development of this strategy and framework, with a particular focus to ensure that skills and employment support benefits at-risk young people. Shared priorities include:

- Reducing inequality across the borough.
- Increase resident's confidence
- Developing a preventative model with inclusive economy at its heart
- The business, public, and voluntary sectors are working as one to give everyone a fair chance, a decent job, and the ability to contribute to the local economy
- Investment and growth in the borough brings direct benefits to those facing the greatest challenges.