WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON

A Strategy to Prevent and Tackle Serious Violence 2019-2024





Introduction

Violence is a significant public health problem. Wiltshire and Swindon are committed to a public health approach to preventing and tackling violence and this strategy represents our first pan-county response.

Background

In 2019, the Home Office announced a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence; encouraging agencies to work collaboratively to share data, intelligence and knowledge, in order to understand and address the root causes of serious violence.

Prevention remains the bedrock to our approach and has to be a shared responsibility Wiltshire and Swindon are adopting an upstream approach to get ahead of the issues and stop the violence before it begins.

Vision

Working together to create resilient, stronger communities, through prevention and tackling root causes to reduce the prevalence and impact caused by violence.

Aims

- Understanding the root causes of the problems;
- Explore how we can prevent it from happening in the first place; and
- Acknowledging there will be occasions where it will happen, so what steps can we take to intervene earlier and reduce further repeat incidences.

Outcomes

- Deliver sustainable reductions in violence; and
- Improve the quality of life and health outcomes of all those impacted by the causes and consequences of violence.

Scale of the problem - the national and local perspectives

Serious Violence - the scale of the problem

Wiltshire and National Swindon million crimes (violence against 16,400 crimes (violence against the the person, sexual offences and person, sexual offences and robbery) reported March 2019[1] robbery) reported March 2019[1] Violent Crime in Wiltshire and Swindon Homicides due to violence accounts for 44% of total recorded crime 4th consecutive annual increase +12% (March 2018 [4]) (March 2018 v's March 2017[1]) 4% of serious crime, involved a knife (March 2018 [4]) NHS admissions for knife crime assaults increased by 14% (March 2019) [1] The cost associated with violence in Wiltshire and Swindon is estimated to be £ £184 million (2) in 2018/19 The cost of violence is estimated to be £50 billion in £ England and Wales in 2015/16 51% of knife crime offenders in Wiltshire in 2017/18 had at least one flag for: (2) - Mental Health - Self-Harm 7% increase in selected knife and sharp - Suicide instrument offences recorded in of these, were linked to drug use England and Wales (year ending Jun '18 vs year ending Jun '19 [3]) 15% increase in selected knife and sharp instrument offences recorded in 2 out 5 killings in England and Wiltshire (year ending Jun '18 vs year Wales, involve victims assaulted ending Jun '19 [3]) fatally with a sharp object Data Sources: [1] Crimes Statistics - CSEW March 2019 for Violence against the Person, Sexual Offences and Robbery; [2] Home Office 2018; [3] Crime Statistics - CSEW June 2019; [4] Wiltshire Police data, 2018 Wiltshire Counci

...We are committed to an approach that is to consider addressing violence in all its forms

What's the problem?

The frequency and severity of violence occurring has significantly increased over recent years, with greater public awareness both nationally and here in Wiltshire.

The impact and consequence of violence remains substantial at an individual, community and economic level

Violent crime in Wiltshire and Swindon accounts for 44% of all total recorded crime; although it has seen a 10% reduction in volume in March 2018 (v's March 2017). Reported knife crime has also fallen (-3%) compared to last year, however, figures have been trending upwards for the last few years.

Violence in all its forms significantly contributes to poorer health and wellbeing

Current and future challenges

Whilst most will survive the effects of violence, the longterm impacts are chronic, often linked to poorer physical, mental and/or emotional health outcomes.

Different forms of violence such as child abuse, neglect, violence, youth violence, gang violence, domestic abuse, elder abuse and suicidal behaviour are all interconnected, and will often share same root causes.

Understanding root causes of violence and factors that can help to better protect our people and their communities, can positively help to:

Prevent and disrupt violence in all its forms, through earlier interventions and a collaborative approach.

Enable everyone to live their best life, free from the threat of violence and in a safe, nurturing environment

Pathway to success. Multi-agency approach model to address serious violence in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Prevention Continuum

To 'treat' after violence occurs, support victims to heal and provide treatment to offenders

To intervene, prevent violence from happening again and deal with short-term consequences

Tertiary Prevention

Supporting those already perpetrating the violence, through rehabilitation and targeted interventions

Secondary Prevention

To halt the progression of violence once established – through early identification or early diagnosis followed by early intervention (prompt treatment)

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Before violence or behaviours occur, work on changing attitudes and norms that underpin it

Primary Prevention

Preventing the violence from happening in the first place. Seeking to prevent violence and/or change behaviour. Changing attitudes and behaviours towards all types of violence, across a societal, community and individual level

