

# WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON

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## A Strategy to Prevent and Tackle Serious Violence

2019-2024



## **Introduction**

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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**

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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**

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

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## **Aims**

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- 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.

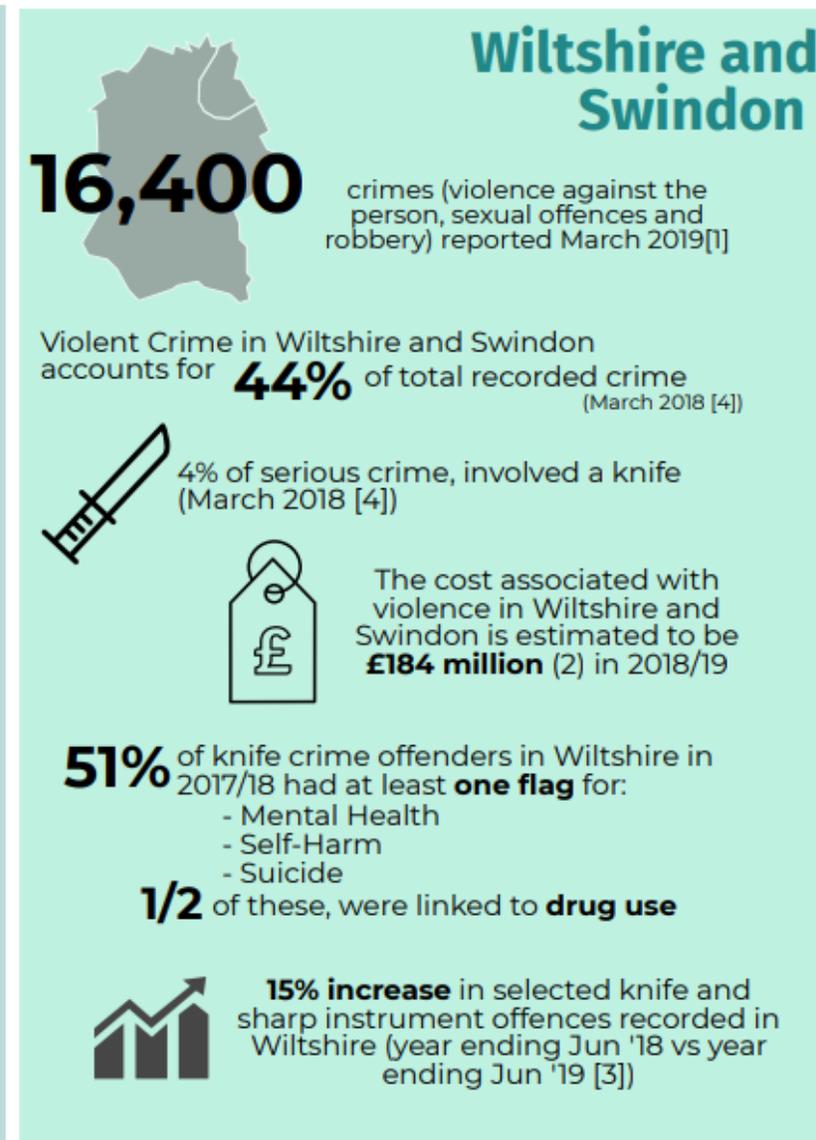
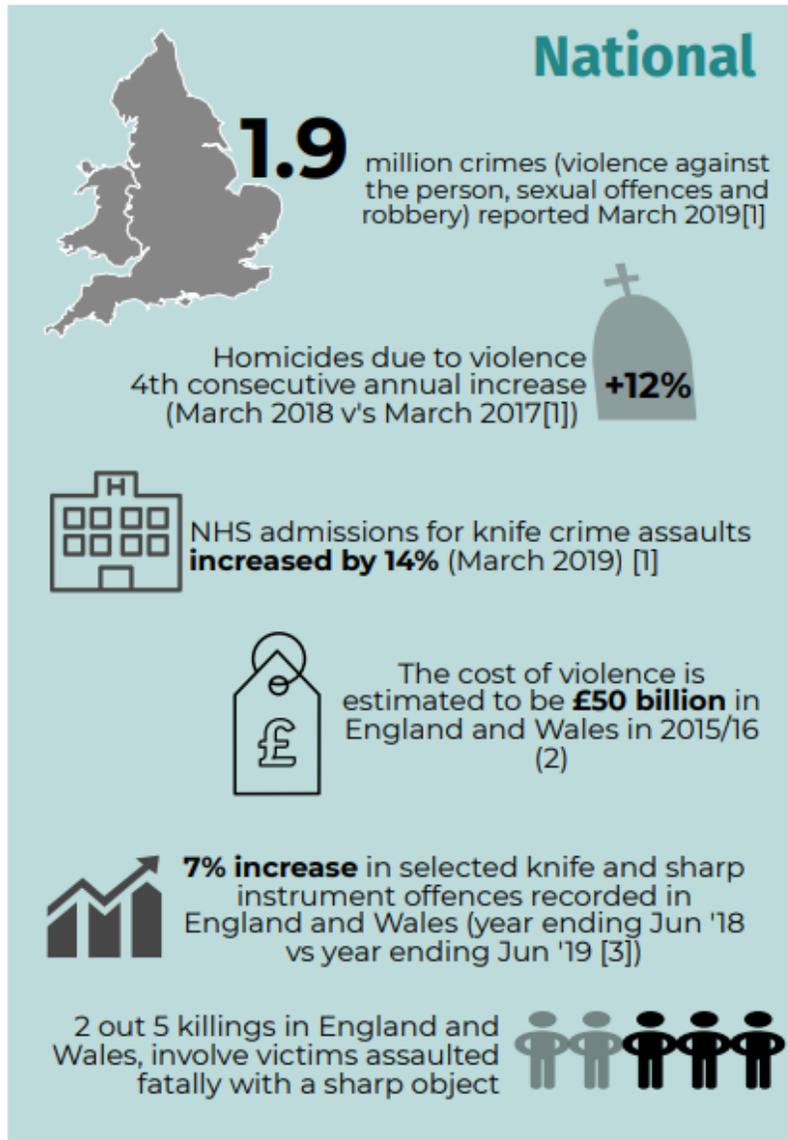
## **Outcomes**

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- 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.

Serious Violence - the scale of the problem

*...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 long-term 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:

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

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

