

**OPCC serious violence Strategy
2020-2021**

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INTRODUCTION:

PCC+ RL TO INTRO?

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The government launched its serious violence strategy in April 2018

‘In addition to our focus on early intervention and prevention we are also placing communities and local partnerships at the heart of our approach. We cannot arrest our way out of this issue and that tackling serious violence requires a multiple-strand approach involving police, local authorities, health and education partners to name but a few. I am also clear that Police and Crime Commissioners have a pivotal role to play and I want to see them prioritise (within their police and crime plans) and work in partnership to tackle the serious violence that damages communities.

The strategy sets out a new challenge for Community Safety Partnerships and other local partnerships. We will put measures in place to help them respond to serious violence and to make it their mission to tackle this crime and involve communities in doing so.’

The evidence shows that while overall crime continues to fall, homicide, knife crime and gun crime have risen since 2014 across virtually all police force areas in England and Wales. Robbery has also risen sharply since 2016. These increases have been accompanied by a shift towards younger victims and perpetrators.

The government is clear that the impact of serious violent crime on society is significant. There is a huge cost to individuals, families and communities through loss of life, and the trauma caused through both the physical and psychological injuries suffered.

2 CLEVELAND -THE LOCAL PICTURE:

This document sets out The Office of the police and crime commissioners approach to Serious Violence in Cleveland. The strategy is clearly based on the premise that a preventative and early intervention approach to serious violence across Cleveland can reduce by a significant amount violent crime.

The strategy is based on a “public health” approach to violence reduction as advocated by the World Health Organisation and the Home Office

As of 2020/21 Cleveland has risen to have the 3rd highest violence crime rate in the country (update)

National crime statistics to 2017 show Cleveland as 15th in the country for increases in knife crimes, however to date Cleveland Most recently available national comparison (Dec 19)- 6th highest knife crime rate per 1K population.

Most serious violence offences in Cleveland are increasing at a higher rate (23%) than the national average. And against the national comparator which shows a reduction of -4%

The cost of the most serious violence to the Police and Criminal Justice System during 2019 is estimated to be **£23.3m**, rising to **£116.2m** when taking into consideration wider costs to society.

Cleveland has the fifth highest rate for hospital admissions for assault with sharp objects in the country.

All of the above is against the backdrop of Cleveland being amongst the most deprived areas in the UK

And there is also a direct correlation between deprivation and serious violence across Cleveland

Local Authorities in the Cleveland Police area are set against a backdrop of high levels of social deprivation, the risk of crime is significantly high, where;

- There are high rates of adult re-offending
- Housing is amongst the cheapest in the country
- Demand for Class A drugs is high, accountable for some of the highest rates of opiate/crack users in the country and high levels of drug-related deaths and hospital admissions

INSERT GRAPHS linear 2010-2021- for knife crime /gun crime/homicide/violence with injury/violence without injury

3. DEFINITION OF SERIOUS AND VIOLENT CRIME

There is no national definition of serious violence

For the purpose of clarification an agreed definition of serious violence as in the strategy aligned with Cleveland Police, is defined as:

- Homicide, attempted murder and manslaughter
- Assault with intent to cause serious harm
- Malicious wounding- wounding or inflicting GBH
- Arson with intent to endanger life
- Aggravated burglary
- Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving
- Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
- Kidnap
- Knife crime and/or firearms enabled/threatened offences based on the following categories (in addition to those already listed above)-
 - Robbery (business and personal)
 - Threats to kill
 - Assault with injury
 - Assault with injury on a Constable
 - Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury

This is not an exhaustive list of themes, others may also be identified and the data will be appropriately separated to ensure an accurate understanding of the various drivers of the different types of serious violence within Cleveland area.

Within that Knife crime is defined as any offence which satisfies both of the following criteria:

- Is classified as an offence of homicide, attempted murder, assault with intent to cause harm, assault with injury, threats to kill, sexual offences (including rape) and robbery;
- Where a knife or sharp instrument has been used to injure, used as a threat, or the victim was convinced a knife was present during the offence.

Knife possession offences have been defined as:

- Having an article with blade or point in a public place (including school)
- Threatening with a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place (including school)

- Possession of an offensive weapon
- Using someone to look after an offensive weapon
- Threatening with an offensive weapon
- **This strategy excludes DA and sexual harm offences –but additional work strands would be linked to funding**

The Cleveland OPCC serious violence strategy identifies the key strands also listed in the government strategy these being:

- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Supporting Communities and Local Partnerships
- Tackling County Lines and Misuse of Drugs, incorporating ‘OCG’ pathways
- Effective Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Response *

‘Law enforcement is a very important part of the national Serious Violence Strategy, but it also looks at the root causes of the problem and how to support young people to lead productive lives away from violence.’

‘Gov serious crime strategy’

In line with the national strategy it should be recognised that serious violence cannot be identified as simply a policing issue.

4: THE MISSION VALUES AND OBJECTIVES/VISION

The Cleveland strategy will enable us to:

- Create better understanding of the problems
- Work closer with our communities
- Work closer with our partners
- Identify what works, and what doesn’t work
- Adapt and change our practice where and when needed

This will enable Cleveland to:

- Reduce all serious violence including Knife crime
- Reduce hospital/NHS input/ admissions for all violent offences
- Ensure community and partner confidence in all above
- Support those victims, offenders and communities involved.
- promote better life choices for residents in Cleveland
- empower residents
- increase resilience

5:THE PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH:

We are developing a 'public health approach' to tackling violent crime in Cleveland. This essentially means an approach that is evidence, partnership, community and long-term based.

The approach has been implemented in Scotland where they tackled alcohol related serious violence. The Glasgow-based Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has proven that long-term strategy plans are required to have an impact on the reduction of serious/violent /knife crime. This approach also links with the Cardiff model

The public health approach means that we will look at violence not as isolated incidents or just as a police enforcement issue. The Ph approach views violence as a preventable consequence of a range of factors. These can include A.C.E.S. /social community experiences/vulnerability.

The Cleveland approach will focus on:

- Analysing underlying causes(problem profiles), examining what works & developing solution
- Harm reduction, primary prevention & early years-causes and influencing factors
- Collaboration from different fields and partners including police, local authority, health,
- Linking with education and other sectors including hospital, data and crime data.
- Implementation of effective and focused interventions to tackle violence .
- Evaluation of impact of interventions delivered

6: CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIPS

The Commissioner is elected to be the public's representative for policing and community safety, using their influence to make Cleveland's voice heard and speaks up for its police force at local and national levels.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has identified in the Police and Crime Plan (as in all previous plans) that working more closely and collaboratively with the local community and our partner agencies will play a crucial part in the success of this strategy.

ADDITIONAL LINKS TO PCP 2021?

The OPCC has a strong and positive background of partnership working such as the Heroin assisted treatment program and Divert deferred prosecution scheme. The strategy aims to enhance and increase the already robust partnership working within Cleveland.

It is also important to include residents as stakeholders on our journey to tackle serious violence in Cleveland, this will:

- Invoke, and ensure a community-led response, seeking to empower and support communities to tackle (where appropriate) the issues in their own communities through discussion and collaboration. The Council/LA enables the discussions to happen and supports with learning opportunities and advice for further funding.
- It is important to understand the 'local picture' and plan how to tackle it accordingly. Part of the picture will be within the problem profile analysis (see appendix). This is further enabled by the re- introduction of neighborhood policing teams. These teams will be a central focus of future work and key outcomes, with delivery on intelligence led information.
- Our community often know what the trigger points are for tension and violence, why a minority of young people gravitate to gangs and what is lacking within the area that could help mitigate those triggers.

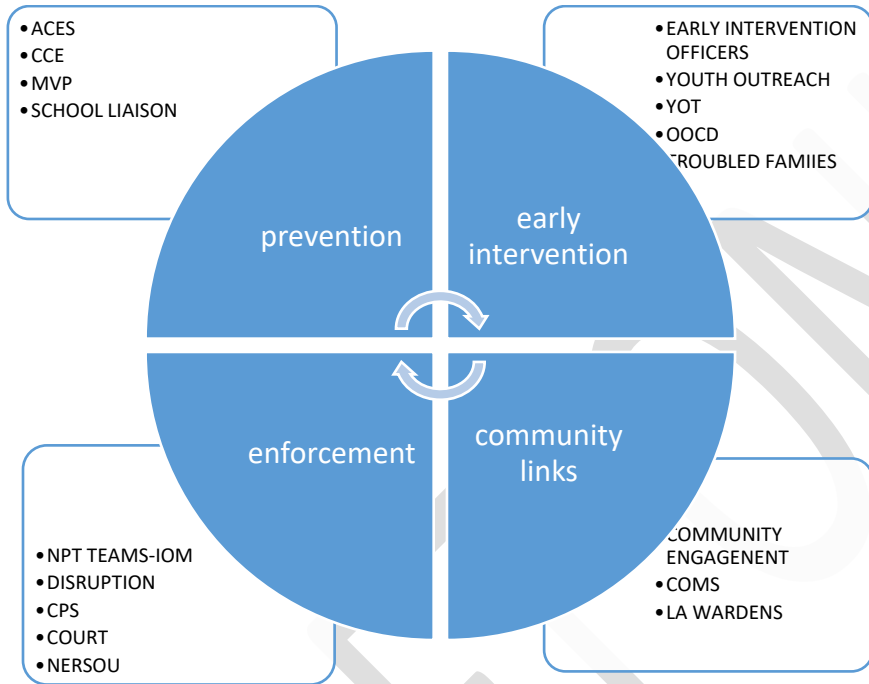
Serious violence is not an issue that will be greatly reduced overnight because of several factors Having that a local picture and problem profile will assist strategic planning and resourcing for all partners involved and make best use of the resources that are being made available to us to tackle serious violence.

It is intended to instigate:

- Bi Monthly violence reduction Partnership Meetings which will include Violence Intel Briefing. Tasking of partnership services to target offenders and hotspot locations; maintain and/or review Events Tracker to identify and manage events of risk, monitor and review community tensions.
- Analysis - CSP Strategic Assessment to include Serious and violent crime, as per the Cleveland definition via ISTV data.

Cleveland **U**nit for **R**EDUCTION OF **V**IOLENCE

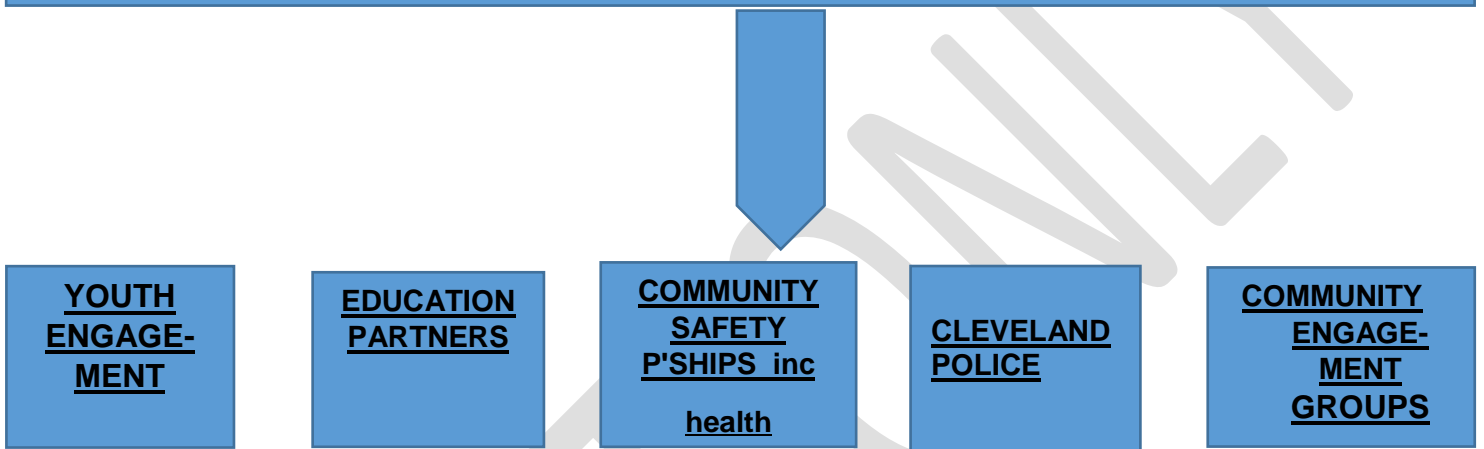
INITIAL UNIT



8: GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

CLEVELAND VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

C.U.R.V-STRATEGIC BOARD*



UNDERPINNED BY:

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS, INCL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

***C**LEVELAND **U**NIT for **R**EDUCTION of **V**IOLENT CRIME

Strategic board:

- PCC
- CHIEF CONSTABLE
- ACC
- LA CEO'S
- CSP LEADS

SWOT

A SWOT analysis was conducted to assess the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing all partners involved in the strategy

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A common vision shared by partners reinforced by the serious violence summit held early 2020 • Full partnership integration and understanding of the public health approach • Good links with Cleveland Police development of a joint strategy • Good community links with services • OPCC has a recognised collaborative approach • Access to funding • Agreed priorities • Agreed coms strategy • Agreed engagement strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the PCC roles • Different agenda priorities • Missed opportunities in promoting the successes of commissioned services • inconsistent engagement with all communities in Cleveland, including those with visual impairment and for whom English is not a first language • data strength across all areas
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned services – wealth of ‘people focused’ stories and case studies from our services • 2021 PCC Election – chance for fresh/changed strategy and approach • Everyone Matters Team – revitalised effort to engage with diverse groups • Build on existing partnerships and also create new ones whilst maintaining the OPCC as a driver of achievement. • Further transparency in regards to holding to account and scrutiny. • Increased funding opportunities and collaborative bidding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 PCC Election – potential reputational issues • Government VRU funding statistical formulas • Budget – priorities may be changed • Different local and partner priorities • Local media perceptions

PESTEL Analysis

P	E	S	T	E	L
Political	Economic	Social	Technological	Environmental	Legal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Brexit • Elections and changes in leadership • CV19 • Government priorities • Changes in local politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government funding to link with • Additional Opportunities to bid for national funds • National economic growth • Recession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes towards police • Attitudes towards crime and offending • Serious crime public profile • Public expectations • Social priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of social media and digital technology • Move to 'wireless society' • Integration of partner systems • Common case recording mechanism • Post cv19 identifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental policy and procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to UK law • Brexit changes to law • Statutory requirements on agencies

A PESTEL analysis has been conducted to identify political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal opportunities and threats

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