

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20th March 2024

Subject **Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy**

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Designation
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate
Janice Dent	Policy and Partnership Manager
Helen Gordon	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer
Dr Carl Williams	Local Policing Area Commander, Chief Superintendent – Gwent Police (Co-Chair)
Sam Slater	Head of Strategy, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the reports on the Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy
2. Decide if the Committee wishes to make any comments or recommendations in relation to the reports.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Serious Violence Duty went live across England and Wales on 31st January 2023. More detailed information about the Duty can be found here. The Duty places a mandatory requirement on certain 'Specified Authorities' (chief officers of police, fire and rescue authorities, health boards, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services) to work together and plan to reduce and prevent serious violence. This includes identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in their area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.
- 2.2 The Duty also requires specified authorities to consult other 'Relevant Authorities' (prison authorities, youth custody authorities and educational authorities) in the preparation of their strategy. The relevant authorities and other key partners such as wider criminal justice partners or those in the 3rd sector are identified as being key to co-operating with specified authorities with the Duty, albeit not legally bound by it.
- 2.3 In Gwent, the following partners are the *specified authorities* for the purposes of the Duty:
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
 - Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council
 - Caerphilly County Borough Council
 - Caerphilly & Blaenau-Gwent Youth Offending Service
 - Gwent Police
 - Gwent Probation Service (Delivery Unit)
 - Monmouthshire County Council
 - Monmouthshire & Torfaen Youth Offending Service
 - Newport City Council
 - Newport Youth Offending Service
 - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
 - Torfaen County Borough Council
- 2.4 All Specified Authorities across Gwent are committed to complying with the requirements laid out in the guidance. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Collaborating with relevant partners by attending meetings and sharing relevant data, agency strategies, plans and other information.
 - Contributing to the development of the need's assessment/s and strategy
 - Committing to implement the results of the strategy – e.g., commissioning services, delivering prevention/early intervention activities.
- 2.5 The Duty stipulates that a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) should provide the intelligence to inform the development of strategic priorities, with the detail of how these priorities are addressed being articulated in a local strategy. The local SNA should provide intelligence on:
- What kind of violence is taking place
 - Who is affected by violence
 - Where violence is happening
 - When violence is happening
 - And where possible, what interventions are needed
- This is the first time a region-wide Serious Violence SNA and Strategy have been drafted in Gwent. The Duty required that both be completed by the 31st of January 2024, and as such the development of this strategy was based on an evolving version of the SNA.
- 2.6 In Gwent, the agreed definition, or 'areas of focus', for serious violence have been identified as:
- Homicide
 - Knife and gun crime
 - Public space youth violence

- Youth violence in schools
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH)
- Robbery
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment.
- Arson with threats to life
- Assaults against professionals.

This definition was agreed by the Gwent Serious Violence Duty Working Group, with representation from all Specified Authorities.

Partnership Committee Terms of Reference

- 2.9 At the AGM meeting of Council held on 16th May 2017 a new Scrutiny Committee Structure was agreed including the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships, the remit of which includes:

Scrutiny of community safety issues and associated partnerships: Designated Committee for Crime and Disorder

- To consider Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) that arise through the council's agreed CCfA process;
- To consider actions undertaken by the responsible authorities on the CSP.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached for the Committees consideration:

Appendix A - Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment

Appendix B - Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategy

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Consider the information that is included fully.
- Identify any gaps in data or learning that may be present.
- Consider feeding in knowledge that the committee members hold and any case study or emerging themes the members are aware of.
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance of the Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.1 In considering / evaluating the Serious Violence Duty: Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy the Committee may wish to consider focusing questions on:
- How do the responsible authorities propose to engage with and involve local communities in the design and implementation of serious violence prevention initiatives to ensure their active participation and support?
 - What specific strategies are in place to ensure effective collaboration and information sharing between Specified Authorities and Relevant Authorities in Gwent?
 - What mechanisms are being proposed to ensure the sustainability of data collection, analysis, and sharing across partners and partnerships in Gwent?
 - How will the effectiveness of the implemented strategies be evaluated, and what metrics will be used to measure the impact of serious violence prevention initiatives in Gwent?
 - Are there any examples of successful interventions based on local data and community insights that have been implemented to prevent serious violence in Gwent?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 5.1 The report links with the Wellbeing-being Objectives and Aims of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027;

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

Step 7 links to the Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy;

7	Promote positive community inclusion and culture by engaging with key stakeholders and communities to address issues of anti-social behaviour and crime.
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6 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A copy of the relevant EAS Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been produced.

Impact Assessment:

6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy demonstrates a strong alignment with the principles and goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act by promoting collaboration, data-driven decision-making, community engagement, and long-term planning to improve the well-being and safety of current and future generations in Gwent.

6.2 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

The Serious Violence Duty Needs Assessment and Strategy demonstrates a commitment to addressing socio-economic factors that contribute to serious violence and promoting more equitable outcomes for individuals in Gwent. By integrating the principles of the Socio-economic Duty into their strategies and actions, the initiatives aim to create a safer and more inclusive community for all residents, regardless of socio-economic background.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Report to Annual Council 16 May 2017 upon New Scrutiny Committee Structures](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Wales Violence Prevention Unit – Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment Guidance for Wales](#)

Report Completed: 20th March 2024