

**CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE AND GUIDANCE**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 16 NOVEMBER 2022</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>THE VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK'S STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2022</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Nick Hibberd</b> Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery <b>Kristian Aspinall</b> Interim Director Culture & Community Safety
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<i>Councillor Ola Kolade</i> Cabinet Member for Community Safety
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

The yearly Strategic Assessment (SA) is an analytical document where specific recommendations are made to ensure the priorities highlighted in the Community Safety Strategy are to be reached or amended where necessary in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the borough.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There are no significant financial impacts from the SA identified and no additional funding is being requested. The SA looks to minimise costs while maximising service delivery.

**KEY DECISION:** Not a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Executive Mayor, in Cabinet, is recommended to support the findings and recommendations in the SA, and the agreement of a revised partnership plan by the Safer Croydon Partnership which will implement the nine recommendations in the SA.

**1. What is the Strategic Assessment?**

- 1.1 Using the definition provided by the College of Policing, the Strategic Assessment is an analytical product which gives an overview of the current and long-term crime and anti-social behaviour issues affecting or likely to affect the borough. It should be used to draw inferences and to make recommendations for prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance

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priorities, and the future Community Safety Strategy. The product is a statutory obligation of the Community Safety Partnership under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

- 1.2 The document covers the last five financial years (2017/18 to 2021/22) with a specific focus on the last financial year (2021//22).
- 1.3 The analysis is based on the problem-oriented approach, which is designed to view crime as a “problem” and not an individual incident. Therefore, this switches the focus on the underlying causes of those problems and how to tackle them. The problem-oriented approach is based on the routine activity theory that for crime to occur, three components are required: an offender to be present, a victim or target to be present and the absence of a suitable guardian. As well as this there is also the absence of two other “controllers” – for offenders these are known “handlers” (e.g. parents or teachers) and for the place this is known as the manager or place management which can be a person (e.g. a police officer) or better place management approaches (e.g. CCTV installation).



- 1.4 To ensure that the analysis is conducted thoroughly, the framework used in the document complies with the principles of what is known as the “5WH” which is the following:
- *What* is the problem?
  - *Who* is involved?
  - *When* is it happening?
  - *Where* is it happening?
  - *Why* is it happening?
  - *How* is it happening?
- 1.5 In 2019 the Partnership adopted the “Public Health” approach in reducing violence in the borough. This is detailed in the 2019 Strategic Assessment available on the Council’s website. At the core of a public health approach is to ensure it is data driven. The SA is the main strategic document the partnership can use to ensure that the Public Health approach is reached and maintained.

## **2. MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

- 2.1 There has been a 7% increase in crime in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 whereas the average London borough saw a 12% increase. It should be noted that part of this increase is because 2020/21 partly involved government restrictions on daily activity because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the number of offences has reached its second highest in 2021/22 over the five-year period (2017/18 to 2021/22).
- 2.2 The number of offences committed in the borough in 2021/22 was the second highest over the last five years. Violence is the main contributor to this overall increase, on average increasing annually by 7% over the last four years compared to 5% for the average London borough. Violence contributes to a third of all crime in the borough each year.
- 2.3 There is also concern over crime harm in the borough, rising by 8% in 2021/22 compared to 2021/20. This is the second highest it's been over the five-year period. This rise in harm is not only because of the recent rise in sexual harm in 2021/22 compared to the year before but particularly due to the significant continual increase in violent harm over the last three years. This has resulted in violent harm from representing a quarter of all harm in 2017/18 to representing almost a third of all harm in 2021/22.
- 2.4 Both violence with injury (VWI) and violence without injury (VWol) have substantially increased in the borough. This is due to both an increase in domestic and non-domestic related violence in the borough.
- 2.5 For VWol offences, there have been significant increases in malicious communications with intent to cause distress and anxiety, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, there has also been notable increases in relatively "low volume" crime types including threats to kill, stalking and cruelty to and neglect of children.
- 2.6 The continual increase in violent harm is mainly due to the increase in VWI both domestically and non-domestically. The analysis done specifically on "street-based" violence shows that this type of violence was at its highest in 2021/22 over the last five years.
- 2.7 Violence is highly concentrated in specific "micro-areas" in the borough, with 2% of the borough containing/responsible for over a third of all violent crime volume and over three quarters of all violent harm. The areas identified can be found in the Appendix A page 26.
- 2.8 Even though almost 60% of victims of violence were less than a mile from their home, the number of victims travelling from outside of the borough is growing, especially amongst young people aged 10 to 17 years old.
- 2.9 The analysis uses a specific "2 x 2" model to identify and prioritise victims of violence. The model shows that it is a small proportion of victims of violent crime who suffer the majority of harm.

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- 2.10 The rise of violent harm, especially towards females, is of significant concern where it is increasing by almost a fifth on average each year over the last four years. This is due to the rise in domestic violence and the rise of street-based violence towards females.
- 2.11 Even though males continue to make up the overwhelming majority of offenders as well as the amount of harm committed, there are significant increases in both volume and harm committed by female offenders.
- 2.12 The analysis demonstrated on the effectiveness of targeting the “victim-offender” is also hugely beneficial to the borough. These individuals make up 4% of all individuals compared to 84% of victims and 16% of offenders but are involved in almost three times the number of offences per person. They are also involved in almost five times the amount of harm as victims and almost three times the amount of harm as offenders.
- 2.13 Hotspot mapping shows that the Partnership’s “Priority Localities Index” (as documented in last year’s Strategic Assessment) should continue to be followed to tackle the underlying causes of crime in the borough. The areas identified can be found in the Appendix A page 45.
- 2.14 The implementation of Risk Terrain Modelling (RTM), which is used to evaluate the features of the environment in areas of high violence, identified specific characteristics which should be addressed by the Partnership. This includes bus stops and attributes linked to drugs and alcohol.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1 To write a problem profile on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in the borough which will feed into the VAWG strategy. This is not only to cover both domestic and non-domestic violence and sexual offences but other specific offences which have seen notable increases including stalking, threats to kill and malicious communications.
- 3.2 To evaluate and target “high volume high harm” micro-areas of violence using Risk Terrain Modelling so appropriate short, medium and long-term interventions can be implemented.
- 3.3 To investigate further into the rise in victims travelling from outside of the borough and to work with the relevant authorities in those areas to protect potential victims who are travelling from there.
- 3.4 To explore and utilise the “2 x 2” model to prioritise appropriate interventions for individuals involved in violence.
- 3.5 To further explore the concept of “victim-offenders” so that intensive long-term provision can be provided to significantly reduce all crime in the borough, not just violence.

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- 3.6 To further utilise alcohol and substance misuse service provision.
- 3.7 To have a greater focus on public transport in the borough, especially around bus stops which have been identified as a high-risk factor for violence.
- 3.8 To further investigate cruelty and neglect of children, which has seen a small but significant increase in the borough.
- 3.9 With the increase in knife crime being specifically driven by knife-enabled robbery, this is to be a priority for the next 12 months.

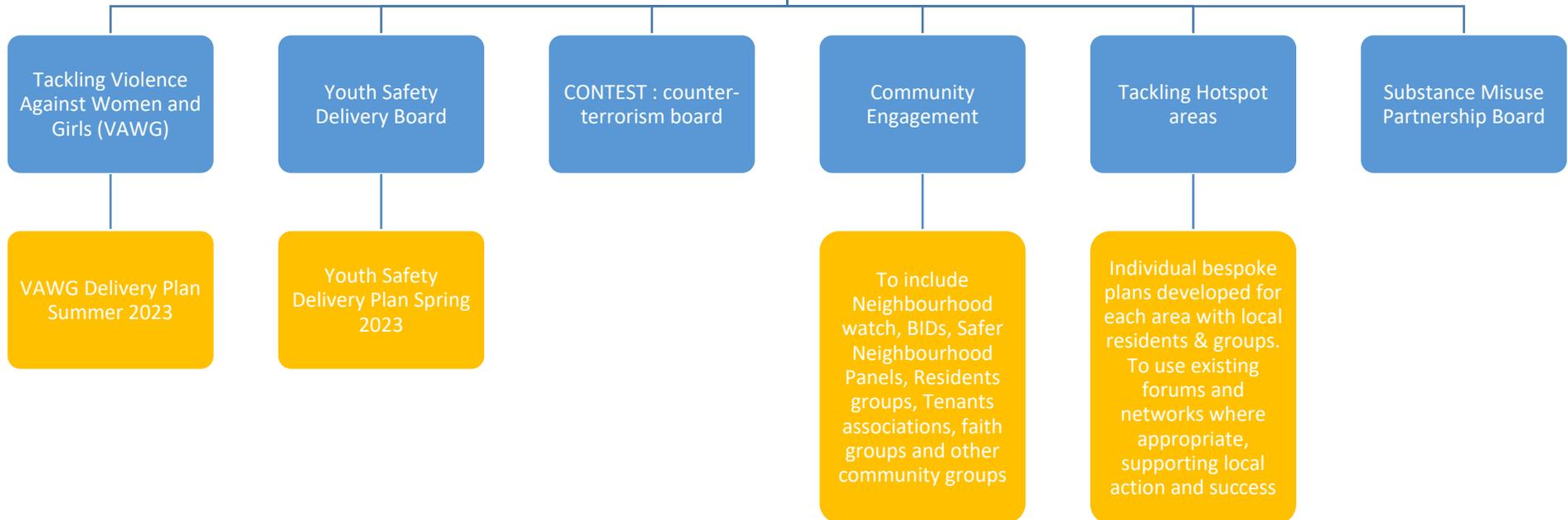
### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SAFER CROYDON PARTNERSHIP**

- 4.1 The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) is the statutory crime reduction partnership made up of the Local Council, Police, Health, Fire Brigade, and Probation, which has the legal duty to develop and deliver joint plans to reduce crime in Croydon.
- 4.2 It is chaired by the Cabinet Member of Community Safety and has many members from the statutory agencies and co-opted members from community groups and other agencies.
- 4.3 It also has the statutory duty of overseeing and conducting Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews when a domestic violence homicide occurs in Croydon.
- 4.4 The strategic assessment is the data product that underpins all strategic decision making by the SCP for the next 12 months.
- 4.5 Following agreement of this strategic assessment, the partnership will then do a complete whole refresh of the borough's 2022 Community Safety Strategy. This will be followed by targeted delivery plans to improve youth safety, reduce violence against women and girls, and to tackle issues in "hot-spot areas" identified through the strategic assessment.
- 4.6 As part of the Executive Mayor's commitment to partnership working with Police and other partners, we are currently working with the statutory partners to review the form and function of the SCP. We are aiming to streamline governance and accountability so that the partnership can focus on its key priorities effectively to make Croydon safer.
- 4.7 We are currently meeting with each statutory partner and the shadow cabinet member for Community Safety to ensure their views and suggestions are incorporated into the revised partnership, which will be agreed in December 2022.
- 4.8 We are currently proposing several key changes to the partnership that include:

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- Reducing the membership of the Executive to the five statutory partners and the cabinet member & shadow cabinet member for Community Safety
- Creating a specific “Community Engagement” group to ensure that all voices in Croydon are heard, including Neighbourhood Watch, the BIDs, Safer Neighbourhood Panels, the Safer Neighbourhood Board, residents and Housing Associations and other groups, who previously have not been part of the SCP.
- This group will feed into all the work of the other boards to ensure that community voices are heard throughout all the work. Community members & groups may also sit on the other sub-boards depending on the nature of their work.
- Refreshing the boards that sit below the SCP to focus specifically on delivery plans, with clear performance indicators and targets for each priority area.
- To tackle hotspot areas, rather than a single plan we will work with local groups and forums to support their action and work rather than create a duplicate structure. These bespoke local plans will reflect the issues of each area, rather than try and deliver a “one size fits all” approach.
- Creating a specific Contest sub-group, to focus on the confidential work the borough is delivering on to fulfil its Prevent and Protect duties as per the national Contest strategy to stop people becoming terrorist and make our public spaces safe from terrorist attacks.
- Placing the new Substance Misuse Partnership board within the SCP framework. This is a new board required by the national government to oversee our work to reduce substance misuse and the harm caused, chaired by the Director of Public Health and vice-chaired by the Director of Culture and Community Safety. This program will also report into the Health and Wellbeing board.
- The delivery plans for the Youth Safety Plan to be in place by spring 2023 and the VAWG plan by summer 2023.

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## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 The SA to be presented and discussed at the Safer Croydon Partnership and relevant boards to implement the recommendations where possible.
- 5.2 To publish the SA on the Council website to provide the public the information on crime and ASB in the borough along with the actions of the Partnership for the next 12 months.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISIONS**

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area and work towards delivering the objectives of the Safer Croydon Partnership plan. It adopted a Public Health Approach in 2019 where it is imperative for the approach to be data-driven. The SA is the main, data-driven, strategic, analytical product which the partnership can use to target its resources effectively.
- 6.2 The Council has a duty to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area and work towards delivering the objectives of the Safer Croydon Partnership plan. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is one of the priorities of the partnership and for Croydon. There are several recommendations in the SA that will directly assist in meeting the Council's pledge in reducing Violence Against Women and Girls.

## **7. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 7.1 Do Nothing – the Police, Community groups and Council will continue to work in partnership as they do in order to try and prevent the behaviour from taking place.

## **8. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **8.1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations**

There are no capital or revenue implications associated with this report. There are no significant financial impacts from the Policy identified and no additional funding is being requested.

### **8.2 The effect of the decision**

If we were to implement all recommendations from the SA, it would reinforce the Partnership's data driven public health approach in reducing violence in the borough. Many of the recommendations involve targeting the limited resources the Partnership has to maximise benefits for residents. A number of the recommendations involve several tried-and-tested approaches.

### 8.3 Risks

As stated previously in the report, there has been a significant increase in crime, particularly violence, in the borough. If the Partnership does not take action based on the analysis it is very possible that the number of violent offences and violent harm continues to increase which may result in further loss of life.

### 8.4 Options

To approve the recommendations of the Strategic Assessment and agree to publish the document to reinforce the borough's commitment to reducing violence in the borough using a public health approach.

To not approve the recommendations and publication of the Strategic Assessment.

### 8.5 Future savings/efficiencies

There are no clear savings or efficiencies associated with this report.

(Approved by: *[A N. Other]*, Department Head(s) of Finance/nominated deputy(ies))

## 9. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon, as stipulated by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The SCP is responsible for co-ordinating the development and implementation of Croydon's Community Safety Strategy. The partnership comprises the police, council, fire, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, and community and voluntary sector organisations. It works with other boards on Croydon's Local Strategic Partnership on crime and safety matters, in particular the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Adults Safeguarding Board.

9.2 A statutory obligation of the SCP is the yearly Strategic Assessment where through analysis on crime and ASB is conducted in the borough to provide informed recommendations for the SCP to target its resources for the following 12 months. This is done in accordance with the Council's agreed "public health" approach.

Approved by Mark Turnbull, on behalf of the interim Director of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer

## 10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 There are no staffing implications or any other HR impact arising from this report or from this decision.

Approved by: *Jennifer Sankar, Head of HR, Housing and Sustainable Communities, Regeneration and Economic Development Directorates, for and on behalf of Dean Shoesmith, Chief People Officer*

## **11. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 11.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Equality Act 2010. In summary, the Council must in the exercise of all its functions, “have due regard to” the need to comply with the three arms or aims of the general equality duty. These are to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
  - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 11.2 The SA does highlight in the analysis and recommendations specific groups of individuals with protected characteristics which require targeted resources in order to improve safety, namely females, children and young people.

Approved by: Denise McCausland – Equality Programme Manager

## **12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 12.1 There is limited impact on the environment as a result of this report. Some hotspot areas identified by the partnership may be related to waste, noise or other issues that affect people’s quality of life. The SA is principally about improving behaviour.
- 12.2 (Approved by: *[A N. Other]* on behalf of the Director of XX)

## **13. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 13.1 It is a statutory obligation for every local authority to write and publish a year Strategic Assessment under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The document is integral to the Safer Croydon Partnership’s Public Health Approach in reducing crime, particularly violence, in the borough. It assists in fully utilising the services of partner agencies in a targeted way, ensuring a holistic approach in reducing crime and ASB.

Approved by: Kristian Aspinall - Director of Culture & Community Safety

**14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

**14.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

**YES** – Personal data has been processed to provide aspects highlighted in the SA, namely the slides on “victim-offenders” and the “2 x 2” model on victims and offenders. However, no personal information is shown in the document and no individual can be identified in the document whatsoever.

*(If yes, please provide brief details as to what 'personal data' will be processed and complete the next question).*

*(If no, please complete the sign off)*

**14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?**

**NO** – As no personal information is in the document and, therefore, no individual can be identified, a DPIA was deemed not required.

*(If yes, please attach a copy).*

*(If no, please provide the reason why a DPIA was not completed. Please also attach any relevant advice)*

14.3 The Director of Culture and Community Safety comments that no DPIA is necessary due to the nature of the report.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** *Lewis Kelly, Intelligence & Performance Manager.*

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

*[Appendices to be attached to this report must be listed in number order below]*

*APPENDIX A – STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2022*

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

*[For executive decision making it is a requirement that all Part A (open) reports & Part B reports (closed) must list and provide an electronic and a printed copy of all background reference.]*