

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Community & Leisure Cabinet Committee
Date: 13 March 2023
Reporting officer: Strategic Manager (Community Safety Unit)
Subject: Serious Violence Duty – Policy Statement March 2023

Purpose and summary of report:

This report presents Members of the Committee with a draft Policy Statement (attached as Appendix 1) which details the responsibilities the Council now has as a specified authority following the enactment of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to work collaboratively to tackle serious violent crime. The Statement outlines the commitment that the Council is making in order to fulfil the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty and ensure that partnership activity reflects the community safety needs and priorities of the Borough.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

1. note the Council’s intention to take steps to meet its legal obligations in respect of the Serious Violence Duty by working together with other partners agencies, including Kent Police and the Crime Commissioner’s Office, to:
 - a. Prepare a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for the Borough.
 - b. Define Serious Violence to include the offences as required by the legislation as well as those offences that are most prevalent in the borough and most relevant to local people.
 - c. Recognise the Gravesham Community Safety Partnership as the local partnership model for discharging the Serious Violence Duty, and consequently for its role in taking a lead to address serious violence in the Borough to be open to be scrutinised by the Council’s Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee.
 - d. Agree that the Policy Statement, subject to any minor amendments deemed necessary, will be adopted via a Statement of Individual Cabinet Member’s Decision.

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
Legal	The Council has a statutory obligation to work with partner agencies to address crime and ASB and Serious Organised Crime (Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Serious Organised Crime Act 2015). The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 Part 2 has introduced a requirement for specified authorities (of which District

	Councils are one) to collaborate and plan to prevent or reduce serious violence.
Finance and Value for Money	There are no identified or specific financial implications at this stage however, Government will be making funding available to Police and Crime Commissioners to help meet labour costs associated with the completion of the Strategic Needs Assessment and non-labour costs associated with the delivery of a Preventing and Reducing Serious Violence Strategy. Funding will be actively sought to support local partnership activity in respect of the Duty.
Corporate Plan	Work undertaken by the Gravesham CSP to address serious violence makes a direct contribution to People and Place in the Corporate Plan.
Climate Change	No direct implications.

1. Overview

- 1.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 received Royal Assent in April 2022 and this was followed by Home Office Statutory Guidance for specified authorities in December 2022 outlining the Government's expectations in respect of the Serious Violence Duty. The new Duty itself came into effect on 31 January 2023 and therefore, specified authorities now need to determine how they will work together to meet Government deadlines in this first year of the Duty being active.
- 1.2 The draft Position Statement accompanying this brief cover report details the different requirements of the Duty and the key steps that specified authorities will need to take in developing plans to prevent and reduce serious violent crime. The level of work involved across agencies will be considerable and the following specific milestones will need to be met by the deadlines stated:

31 March 2023	Specified authorities will need to identify the partnership structure e.g., Gravesham Community Safety Partnership, to coordinate joint activity to fulfil the Duty, ideally through a 'Partnership Agreement'. This should outline the roles and responsibilities of the different partners and of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in delivering the specified objectives of the Duty.
31 January 2024	A Strategic Needs Assessment (identifying the types of serious violence that occur locally through an evidence-based analysis, the likely drivers of that violence and information gathered through consultation, including with communities) to be submitted to Government. A Serious Violence Strategy (informed by the findings of the Strategic Needs Assessment process) to be submitted to Government.
31 January 2025	Specified authorities must complete an annual review of the Serious Violence Strategy and revise it as necessary dependent on any emerging priorities or the impact of

	interventions completed in the delivery of the Strategy since its commencement.
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2. Appendices

2.1 The following documents are to be published with this cover report:

2.1.1 Preventing and Reducing Serious Violence – Position Statement 2023
(Draft)

3. Background Documents

3.1 There are no background documents.

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Secondary Implications	
Risk Assessment	Failure to work in partnership with other statutory agencies as required would be to the detriment of addressing crime, ASB and Serious Organised Crime.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i>
	a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data ? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. No
	b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A
	c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk .
Equality Impact Assessment	a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. N/A
	b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. N/A
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
Crime and Disorder	The Council has a statutory obligation to work with partner agencies to address crime and ASB and Serious Organised Crime (Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Serious Organised Crime Act 2015). The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 Part 2 has introduced a requirement for specified authorities (of which District Councils are one) to collaborate and plan to prevent or reduce serious violence.
Digital and website implications	None at this stage.
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	The safeguarding of vulnerable young people and adults is corporately a high priority for the Council, and it is also a strategic priority for the CSP. Work to prevent and reduce serious violent crime will also help to protect vulnerable people from harm.