



City of Westminster



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

## Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board

## RBKC Health & Wellbeing Board

<b>Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>General Release</b>
<b>Title:</b>	Westminster's Partnership Response to Serious Youth Violence
<b>Report of:</b>	Sarah Newman, Executive Director, Children's Services
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	All
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	
<b>Report Author and Contact Details:</b>	Alice Kavanagh <a href="mailto:akavanagh@westminster.gov.uk">akavanagh@westminster.gov.uk</a>

### 1. Executive Summary

### 2. Key Matters for the Board

#### 2.1 Public Health approach to serious youth violence

2.2 The Health and Well-being Board's role in overseeing health and social care for Westminster, means that it plays an important role in the Public Health approach to tackling the underlying causes of serious youth violence. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board monitor the underlying health issues and that regular updates are provided to the board from the Serious Youth Violence Reduction Board.

#### 2.3 Serious Violence statutory duty

2.4 The Serious Violence statutory duty, which is likely to become legislation in 2021, will place a duty on local organisations to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. Westminster is already doing this work through the Serious Youth Violence Reduction Board and the Safer Westminster Partnership Strategy and Strategic Assessment, and it is recommended that we utilise our strong existing partnership arrangements. The duty places a greater role for education providers and the local authority will need to consult with education providers, as well as strengthen links with health colleagues in this area, particularly the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

## 2.5 **Involvement of Clinical Commissioning Groups**

2.6 There is a gap in attendance at the Serious Youth Violence Reduction Board from health colleagues. The new statutory duty will place a duty on Health (Clinical Commissioning Groups) to work together with other specified authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence. Health professionals play an important role as they can offer support and are often seen as a universal supportive mechanism for young people and families (e.g. most people go to the GP), as opposed to other “authorities” (e.g. police or Children’s Services) and are uniquely placed to have discussion and provide signposting for support. Further collaborating and sharing information amongst services is key for early intervention. It is asked that the CCGs provide a representative to attend the bi-monthly Serious Youth Violence Reduction Board.

## 3. **Background**

3.1 Serious youth violence is a key priority for Westminster City Council and the Safer Westminster Partnership. The SWP’s 2020-23 strategy outlines ‘Protecting the most vulnerable in Westminster from becoming victims or offenders of violence or exploitation’ as one of its five priorities.

3.2 Levels of serious youth violence have fluctuated over the past year, due to Covid-19 lockdowns. Youth violence and knife crime with injury have increased following each lockdown easing. The night-time economy has an impact on these figures, as most youth violence taking place in Westminster is not committed by Westminster residents, only 40% is<sup>1</sup>. Non-resident youth violence is most likely to be concentrated in the West End and St James’s area. However, there were 50 knife crime with injury victims in Westminster in the last year, aged 1-24. Of the 50

---

<sup>1</sup> Police CRIS data between October 2019 to September 2020.

offences, 9 were in Westbourne, 6 Little Venice, 5 Church Street and 5 Knightsbridge and Belgravia. The Integrated Gangs and Exploitation Unit has noted an increase in serious youth violence incidents in 2020, with incidents increasing from 55 key incidents in 2019 (1st April to 31st of March) to 134 in 2020 (1st of April 31st March).

- 3.3 This paper in the appendix provides the current position and multi-agency response to tackling serious youth violence in Westminster (June 2021), as lockdown restrictions lift, and the City reopens. There are concerns that the loosening of restrictions may result in a rise in serious youth violence in the borough, and this paper outlines the strong partnership work that is being carried out to mitigate against this risk.

#### **4. Options / Considerations**

- 4.1 The board is asked to provide a steer on how it wishes to provide oversight to the partnership's Public Health approach to Serious Youth Violence.
- 4.2 The board is also asked to provide guidance and support in how the partnership should engage with the CCGs.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 None

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 None

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the  
Background Papers please contact:**

**Alice Kavanagh, Community Safety Commissioning Manager, Westminster City  
Council**

**Email: [akavanagh@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:akavanagh@westminster.gov.uk)**

**Telephone: 07890380239**

**APPENDICES:**

Briefing Note on Westminster's Partnership response to Serious Youth Violence for Health and Wellbeing Board

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None