



City of Westminster



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Westminster & Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Health & Wellbeing Board

Date:	23 November 2023
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Serious Violence Duty - Update
Report of:	Community Safety – RBKC and WCC
Wards Involved:	All
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1. Executive Summary

The Board are invited:

- To note the Serious Violence Duty requirements that came into effect in January 2023.
- To note progress by both RBKC and WCC towards delivering the requirements of the statutory Serious Violence Duty.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The plans are for information only.

3. Background

The Serious Violence Duty is a duty placed on local organisations to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, as set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2021. The Duty requires partners via a statutory partnership board, in the case of London, Community Safety Partnerships, to:

- undertake an evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence in your area (and have effective data sharing to enable this).
- develop a strategic needs assessment (SNA) based on the analysis.
- develop and implement a strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in your area, reviewed every year.

The Duty holders are:

- The police
- Fire and rescue authorities
- Justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- Health bodies
- Local Authorities

The Violence Reduction Unit has issued guidance for London with a proposed definition, which has been adopted by WCC and RBKC:

“Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, Domestic abuse (as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021), Sexual violence.”

WCC is also including Night-Time Economy driven violence by over 25's in the West End in its definition, as this makes up a large proportion of Westminster's serious violence.

Both boroughs have produced strategic needs assessments and are currently drafting their strategies. Community engagement has taken place, and this has fed into the strategy development, including in RBKC community safety consultations and 'It Takes A Village' event. In WCC, insights from the Resident Research Panel and Westminster City Survey have been included.

Consultations have taken place with partnership and operational boards, including VAWG Strategic Board, Specialist Services Group, CYP Operations Group, Safeguarding Adults Executive Board, Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Serious Youth Violence Boards and the two Community Safety Partnerships.

RBKC is producing a serious violence addendum to their Community Safety strategy. WCC is incorporating serious violence into their new Safer Westminster Partnership Strategy.

The boroughs need to submit their Serious Violence Duty strategies to the Home Office by 31st January 2025.

4. Financial Considerations

4.1 None.

5. Legal Considerations

5.1 None.

Appendix A – Powerpoint Presentation