



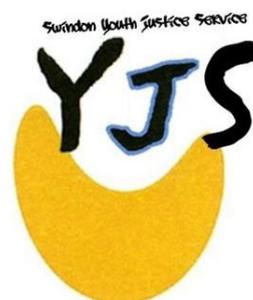
Bath and North East Somerset,  
Swindon and Wiltshire Partnership  
Working together for your health and care



**SWINDON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Have your say and be heard



Wiltshire and Swindon  
**pcc**



Swindon  
Safeguarding  
Partnership



Bath and North East Somerset,  
Swindon and Wiltshire  
Clinical Commissioning Group

**SWINDON YOUTH SAFETY**

**STRATEGY 2022-2026**

**LEADING WITH CARE**



**SWINDON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Sharing power and creating new, innovative and non-traditional partnerships will be key to the success of this strategy, as such you will see quotes from the children, young people and communities of Swindon, talking about what will help to improve youth safety and outcomes in Swindon. Counter narrative of the voices that are usually silent has been a central tenant to our approach and we thank all the residents of Swindon who took part.

# FOREWORD

## JOINT STATEMENTS

Consequences and punishment make no difference. Belonging, connection and a positive identity are what will help reduce violence

*Young person open to the Youth Justice Service*



Our vision is to make Swindon a safe place to work and live and to reduce the prevalence of violence in communities to enable them to thrive.

We are ambitious to ensure that Swindon is one of the safest Boroughs in the Country and are taking a long-term approach to addressing youth safety. We are proactively targeting the causes of violence and exploitation and intervening as early as possible so that children's aspirations are not limited by obstacles that they may encounter in their life. This approach cannot happen without a commitment from Partners across Swindon to develop new and non-traditional partnerships to innovate to improve outcomes for children, young people and the residents of Swindon.

Our commitment to a shared approach to reduce violence requires a shift in the relationship between the public agencies and our local communities. We will adopt a contextual violence reduction approach. This means that we look at risks and relationships in the neighbourhood and online. We will use evidence-based approaches and frameworks, to identify situations that can cause harm and successful safeguarding outcomes.

Key to this will be raising aspirations for children and young people and instilling a belief and self-confidence that they can achieve great things.

**Councillor Martin**  
**Cabinet member for Children's Services**



In recent years there has been an increase in the numbers and seriousness of violence in Swindon and we are acutely aware of the impact that this has across Swindon for our communities, families, children and young people. Sadly, the root causes of violence and exploitation are all too familiar: trauma, abuse and neglect, poverty, peer pressure, racism, domestic abuse and emotional health and wellbeing challenges. This Youth Safety Strategy is designed to ensure communities and partners are empowered to find solutions to the causes of violence and are supported to aim high for children and families in Swindon.

The Strategy marks an important moment, where partners and communities stand together and relentlessly pursue a positive future for the children in Swindon.

The Strategy takes learning and advice directly from children and young people who have been effected by violence and from our existing professional Partnerships that have been engaging with the DfE Tackling Child Exploitation Programme. The Strategy is aspirational for children and young people and builds on existing resilience and programmes of work within the communities across Swindon. It sets out the case for change and the means to deliver it.

**David Haley**  
**Corporate Director: Children's Service**

# FOREWORD

## JOINT STATEMENTS CONT.



The risk of serious violence and child criminal exploitation is one of the single biggest priorities for Wiltshire Police across Swindon and the wider county. Reflected in our Force Strategic Assessment and the OPCC's Police and Crime Plan, the policing family is committed to addressing and improving youth safety across the borough of Swindon.

We know that policing alone will not end the cycle of violence driving violent crime. The Force must actively problem solve and show innovation and this includes actively listening to the voices of young people and children in communities. A 'whole system' partnership approach is needed as the Force proactively engages with communities, builds trust and confidence and finds new solutions to addressing the causes of youth violence.

**Deborah Smith**  
**Assistant Chief Constable**



# INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

**In 2021 Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Police and partners (Children's Social Care, Health, Education, Youth Justice and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)) committed to tackling violence affecting children and young people through the development and implementation of a Youth Safety Strategy, which sets out the foundations for a four year ambitious action plan.**

We know that a completely new approach is needed, built on the public health principles of long-term solutions. This strategy builds on the work we have carried out to date and incorporates the work we have done together to listen to children, young people and our community and act on their views and feedback. It builds on our public health serious violence needs assessment in Swindon and the work completed by the serious violence reduction forum. The strategy will realise our long-term ambition by adopting a life course approach to ensure children, young people, families and communities do not suffer the tragic consequences of violence and exploitation through creating and delivering solutions to tackle the drivers of violence and exploitation with and alongside our residents and other partners.

We are also building upon the work and learning that has taken place through our bespoke support from the DfE funded Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Programme and with permission of the TCE programme have adopted their **'joining the dots'** framework to help describe the core concepts, values and beliefs that the partners will follow to improve outcomes for residents in Swindon.

This strategy is the first of its type for Swindon. It is developed by the partnership and communities, strengthened and informed by the voices of children across Wiltshire, the work of Swindon's Public Health team and the evidence base to identify 'what works' to make communities safer.

# A SHARED VISION

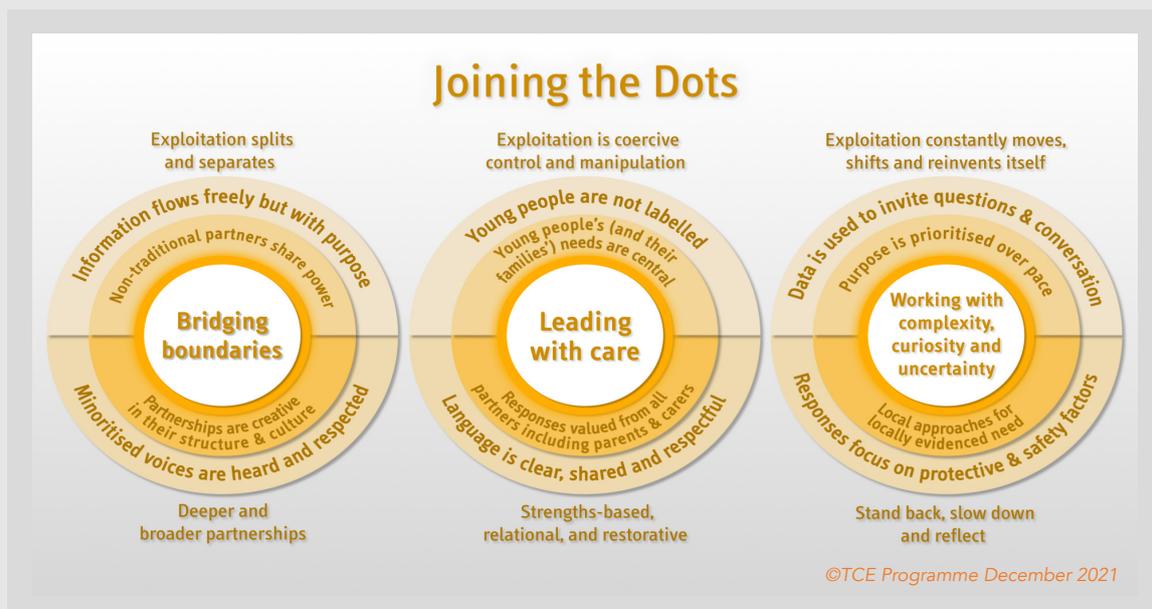
Making Swindon a safe place to work and live, reducing the prevalence of violence and exploitation in communities to enable them to thrive

We believe this vision is achievable if we work with the communities who most need us and focus on;

- Developing deeper and broader partnerships
- Ensuring our approaches are strengths based, relational and restorative
- Taking time to stand back and reflect with our partners-both traditional and new

In order to do this, we also know that a shared set of values and beliefs will be key to our partnership approach.

As such, and through our Tackling Child Exploitation partnership development, we intend to fully adopt the values, concepts and ideas outlined in the Tackling Child Exploitation joining the dots framework. The Joining the Dots is a framework developed by the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Support Programme based on learning from both programme delivery and the development and synthesis of evidence-informed resources. Its focus as a framework is on the 'how' of tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm, rather than the 'what' needs doing.



The framework has three, interconnected, themes:

- **Bridging Boundaries**
- **Leading with Care**
- **Holding Complexity, Uncertainty and Curiosity**

These themes are intended to promote cross-cutting partnership approaches capable of responding to the breadth and depth of the system challenges inherent to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

The Joining the Dots framework aims to support and challenge us all to break down 'siloed thinking' and activity. Children and young people's experiences in relation to different forms of violence, exploitation and extra-familial harm are varied and complex. So the strategic response to these harms needs to be able to respond to this complexity and approach both protection and support from new perspectives. To support this, the Joining the Dots framework offers a simple but effective parallel:

**Disrupt exploitation by responding with an approach that explicitly inverts the dynamics of child exploitation and extra-familial harm.**

# KEY OBJECTIVES

A few of my friends have been through Youth Justice Service but haven't had ongoing support and are more likely to reoffend

Our strategy is aspirational for children, young people and communities alike. Our key objectives outline the essential goals we are trying to achieve to realise our long-term vision. Through the development of a defined action plan and performance framework accountable to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) we will measure progress and demonstrate success.

For the purposes of this strategy, the partnership have agreed to use the 2018 Serious Violence Strategy definition of serious violence:

**“Specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing”.**

- **We will address the root causes of serious youth violence and exploitation.** We know that targeting violence in isolation will not have the impact on outcomes we want to achieve for our residents. We know that we need to take a public health approach and seek to understand the drivers that make children and young people vulnerable to experiencing and/or committing acts of violence. This strategy needs to create momentum across the partnership to act and ensure that our vision for children and families in Swindon can be achieved. Our success must be measured not only in reducing violence in Swindon now, but also in preventing it from happening in the future as well.
- **We will listen to the communities, children, young people and families who need us most.** We will ensure co-production and counter narrative (hearing the voices of those who usually do not get heard) are at the heart of anything we do to address serious youth violence and enhance youth safety.
- **We will develop new, non-traditional and innovative partnerships with our communities.** Our consultations have shown that if we are to achieve different outcomes, we need to do things differently. We need to listen intently to our communities and implement the ideas and solutions suggested together. Building on natural networks of support and resilience will be key to our long term aim and overarching vision for this strategy.
- **We will reduce the number of children and young people who are victims of violence every year.** We will measure this through police data and hospital admission data.
- **We will reduce the severity of violence in Swindon.** Violence which involves weapons (such as knives) tend to have a greater impact on a child or young person, their family and community than other violence. We will reduce the use of weapons and the need for children and young people to feel safe by carrying a weapon. We will measure this through police data on offensive weapon offences and Youth Justice data relating to offence types and convictions.
- **We will reduce the number of children involved in the criminal justice system.** Evidence shows that once a child enters the criminal justice system, their long-term life prospects are often diminished, and they may become more vulnerable to getting involved in further crime. Children involved in criminal activity make up a large percentage of incidents of violence towards other young people and are often victims themselves. Equally, young people who have become involved in risky activity and crime are often exploited by older people to commit further crime and acts of violence.

# SWINDON VIOLENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Swindon Violence Needs Assessment (VNA) was produced by Swindon Borough Council's Public Health team in May 2021. The focus of the VNA was on child and young people aged up to 25 years old as they are most at risk of violence and offending. The VNA sought to build an understanding of the reality of violence in Swindon and the prevalence of underlying risk factors that may make the Swindon community more susceptible or less resilient to violence.

## Summary of main findings from VNA:

- The number of violent crimes reported in Swindon remains stable over the last 5 years and the rate of the violence offence per 1,000 population for Swindon in 2019/20 lower than the overall England average. Violent crime remains a high priority for members of the Swindon CSP due to its serious nature and potential life-changing consequences for those involved.
- Local data identified individual and environmental factors that would benefit from improvement (including negative experience at home, school exclusion, deprivation etc.). Early interventions that address these local risk and protective factors could reduce the number of people involved in violence in Swindon.
- Results from a survey of professionals indicated that there are significant differences in the definition of violence among professionals and it is vital for the Swindon CSP to clearly define the remit and the focus of the next phase of this violence needs assessment. Additionally, the result of the professional survey highlighted some potential quick wins for this project and described the partners' visions of what a successful violence prevention programme in Swindon would look like (See Table 1).
- The local service mapping identified gaps in violence prevention interventions available in the borough of Swindon. Although, there are a range of violence prevention interventions available in Swindon, a significant proportion of these interventions only accept referrals for individuals who are known to social services or have encountered the police or wider criminal justice system. Furthermore, the majority of universal interventions on violence prevention are provided in the school settings which may limit their reach and opportunities to intervene early.

## What does a successful violence prevention programme look like in Swindon?

A survey of professionals asked the question of what a successful violence prevention programme would look like in Swindon. Their responses were analysed and summarised below and have informed the development of this strategy and the associated action plan.

Table 1

<b>Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single point of contact for each individual agency to improve the link between frontline services</li> <li>• Life course approach to address some adverse factors early to prevent violence from happening</li> <li>• Single strategy for all agencies to cover short-, medium and long-term actions. Clear and cohesive objectives for all services</li> <li>• Improved funding and resource available and consider joint commissioning of services</li> <li>• Strength based vs place based approach – the balance between targeted intervention and negatively focus on an area as danger zone</li> </ul>
<b>Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved inter-agency referral and communication. Promote information sharing (especially around risks)</li> <li>• Clear objectives at all level (strategic, tactical and operational)</li> <li>• Develop early interventions (before a crime)</li> <li>• Improved awareness of services available to encourage join up working</li> <li>• Collaborative working of all partners (including the VCSE sector partners)</li> <li>• Widen education programme for young people – consider the use of incentive to engage the services</li> <li>• Joint training for all professionals to identify people who are at higher risk of being victims or perpetrators in violence</li> <li>• Sharing of performance data and using local data more intelligently – Dashboard for violence prevention</li> <li>• Improved ongoing support for individuals</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in police call out/ contact related to violence</li> <li>• Reduction in violence incidents</li> <li>• Reduction in knife crime</li> <li>• Reduction in ED attendance/hospital admission related to assault</li> <li>• Reduction in the number of exploited children and vulnerable adults</li> <li>• Increase in the successful completion of alcohol and drug treatment</li> <li>• Reduce stigmatisation (individual as well as geographical area)</li> <li>• Changes in attitude</li> </ul>

# WHAT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES HAVE TOLD US

“ There is a lot of peer pressure for young people to take part in substance misuse. Lack of resources for support is an issue as lots of young people don't know where to go to get help ”

Recent community and child/young person engagement tells us that many children and young people feel that the following issues continue to contribute to incidents of serious youth violence and impact on youth safety in Swindon. The following feedback comes from the YJS Youth and Parents Board, The Youth Shadow Board of the Children's Health, Education and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, the Children in Care Council, the Youth Council and Swindon Council's Participation Strategy

## **Children and young people felt the following themes were relevant to the causes of violence:**

- Children not attending education, training or employment through exclusion, off-rolling or unsuitable provision
- Labelling of children and young people with negative perceptions rather than their strengths
- Interventions that focus on deficits rather than strengths, making children feel unsafe/reinforcing the scale of the problem.
- Talking about violence and crime, when adults should be taking about aspiration and hope for young people
- Substance misuse and risk of exploitation
- Peer pressure, grooming and exploitation from older young people
- Family problems, abuse and limited support for parents
- Lack of appropriate places for children to go and participate in meaningful activities
- Poverty, financial difficulties and lack of job opportunities
- Poor relationships between children, young people and the police

## **The actions suggested by young people to achieve change**

- Break the mould of how services are designed and delivered. Take a community development approach
- Support children and young people to have a sense of belonging to a positive group
- Support children with activities, interactions and roles that support pro-social identity development
- Provide more support to young people surrounding substance misuse and exploitation
- Support the development of projects and provisions to support with Education, Training, Employment and Youth Enterprise
- Take a whole family approach and support parents and families to help their children
- Establish further opportunities for police and children to come together and develop relationships in the community
- Develop new, non-traditional partnerships for funding to develop music and sports projects for vulnerable children in Swindon

# WHAT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES HAVE TOLD US

CONT.



Provide young people with genuine career paths and not entry level courses that don't have a destination



Further to the above work, Leaders Unlocked were commissioned by the OPCC in 2021 to develop The Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Commission in order to ensure youth voice informed the development of the Police and Crime Plan and that young people in communities are being listened to. 30 young people from across Wiltshire and Swindon were recruited as volunteers, to undertake work with their peers and youth organisations across communities in relation to policing and community safety. Following discussions with over 1400 young people, the following 6 priorities were identified as issues facing young people across Wiltshire and Swindon:

- Mental Health
- Drug and Alcohol Misuse
- Social Media and Online Safety
- Relationships with the Police
- Abuse and Violence
- Grooming and Exploitation

A youth led conference was delivered by the Youth Commissioners in January 2022, via a presentation to outline their key findings and recommendations to the PCC and partners. All findings and recommendations will be formalised in a report and published in late February 2022.

There will be a number of recommendations in the Youth Commission report, developed from their discussions with the youth of Swindon. The overarching key themes of those recommendations, as set out below, will require joined up and partnership working, as part of this Youth Safety Strategy, to ensure they are delivered. The thematic recommendations are:

- Investment to focus on training across policing and other professionals who work with young people in relation to the priorities identified
- Digital campaigns to assist with key educational messages around the priorities identified
- Continuation of collaborative working across partners
- Improved communication from Wiltshire Police and OPCC to ensure positive stories are shared in relation to criminal offences and punishments
- Improve reporting facilities for youth communities
- Ongoing commitment to improve and strengthen relationships between policing and youth communities.
- Ongoing commitment to support victims of crime

# COVID-19-CHILDREN AND THEIR WELLBEING

“  
It is hard to be motivated after the COVID lockdowns, we need people to look up to  
”

The Covid-19 pandemic has had and continues to have a significant impact on the lives of children and young people in Swindon. Children and young people have shown huge resilience in the face of a pandemic which has interrupted their development and has been putting their futures on hold. We know children need the stability of their education setting or workplace to reduce the risk of exploitation or becoming a victim of violence.

We know, from our priority to involve children and young people, that mental health and wellbeing is a priority for them and according to the various youth participation groups across Swindon young people have found the follow areas for this strategy to address:

## **Mental Health-What would help?**

- Covid-19 has left young people feeling isolated and unmotivated. Children and young people need help to access support with more outreach approaches to mental health and wellbeing
- Provide services and support when children and young people need it most. Offering mental health and wellbeing services at 'Teachable, reachable moments'
- Provide one trusting and sustained relationship so children and young people can build a relationship and feel contained
- Increase the provision of mental health and wellbeing services at an early intervention stage and before children need specialist help
- Develop more opportunities for children to participate in activities that support wellbeing and identity development
- Enhance opportunities for community development involving children and their wider community

Helping young people with their mental health has been a key part of our response to exploitation and violence and we have recently reviewed our approaches to children and young people's mental health via the violence reduction forum and public health. We intend to drive further developments in this space as part of this strategy.

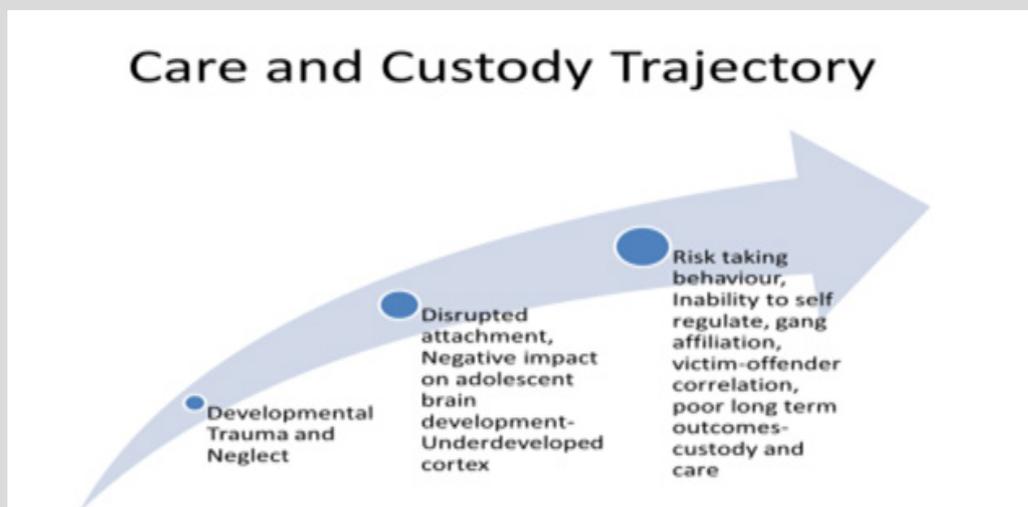
“  
Mental health was here years ago, it's here now and it will always be here  
”

“  
We agree that it is important to take a child first approach but we believe working with families should depend on the situation; if a child is being abused by parents or their parent has an abusive partner, it is important to support the child as well as parents on the same level  
”

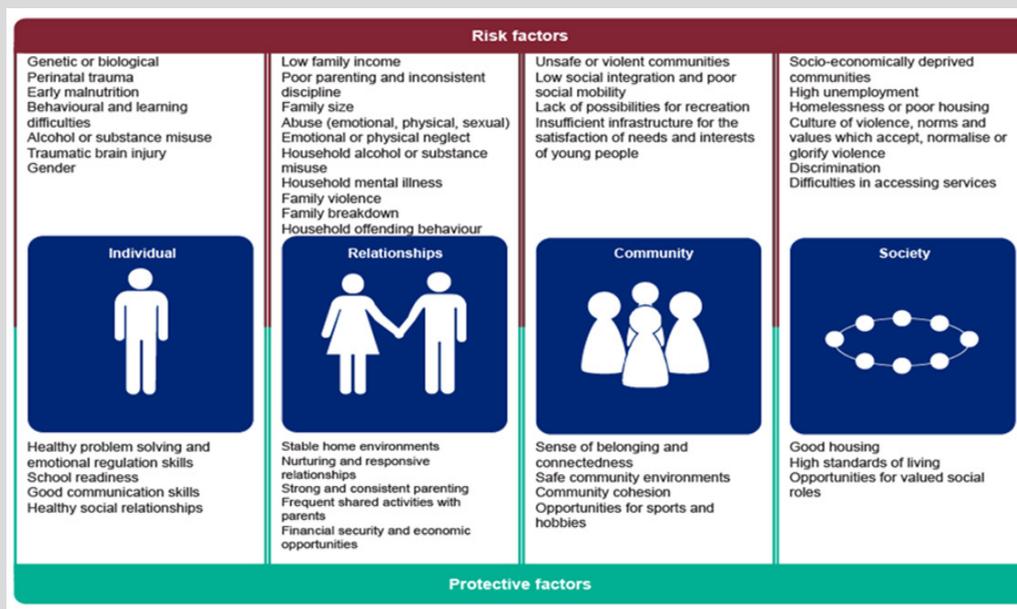
# TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE

In addition to the voices of children and young people, learning from the impact of incidents of serious youth violence both in Swindon and nationally tells us addressing the impact of abuse, trauma and neglect at the earliest opportunity is likely to have a significant effect on the numbers of children entering the criminal justice system, becoming at risk of being exploited and engaging in violent behaviour.

Our care custody trajectory from case review and partnership learning demonstrates the impact of trauma on violence and risk taking:



This is further supported by the evidence base to build upon the key protective factors and addressing risk factors as outlined in the below graphic from Public Health England:



# ADDRESSING INEQUALITY AND INCLUSION

“

We believe it is important for young people to be able to talk to someone/a mentor from the same background or ethnicity as them if they would like to

”

“

Don't treat me differently and single me out, people at school know I am on free meals

”

## Addressing Inequality and Inclusion

We recognise that boys from Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) backgrounds and children with Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) are likely to be more vulnerable to harm from criminal exploitation. It is vital that we focus on discrimination and racism and make a commitment to demonstrate anti-discriminatory practice:

As part of our commitment to addressing inequality, we will:

- Recognise and support the need for tackling race and all disparity and commit to ensuring we address those issues.
- Improve how we involve and receive feedback from our diverse communities of children and young people to ensure that we learn about their unique identities and cultures.
- Understand there is not a 'one size fits all' approach to diversity, equality and inclusion and we will therefore commit to better understand the composition of our local diverse communities of children and young people so that we can provide a response that meets their individual needs and reduces disproportionality.
- Recognise that children with SEND Support or Education, Health, Care Needs may require reasonable adjustments or additional support to keep safe from exploitation or violence.
- Develop a truly diverse workforce that reflects our communities of children and young people and values difference and ensure that workforce has the necessary skills and confidence to work within all our communities.
- Create an inclusive and tolerant culture within our workforces and workplaces to enable us to approach and truly engage with our communities of children and young people.
- Continue to be committed to working with partners to develop a whole system response to disproportionality in our children and young people, that will help reduce and ultimately seek to eliminate disparity.
- Recognise the importance of having a strong evidence base for our decision-making and will continually improve our approach based upon the research undertaken.
- Recognise the legal obligations we have and are committed to ensuring these are met.

“

It is important for young people in those areas [where there is deprivation] to know what opportunities are there for them so they can build their confidence and pride

”

# OUR FRAMEWORK

The public health approach taken by the partnership focuses specifically on ensuring all groups within the population are treated fairly and pays attention to improving the health and wellbeing of all within a community. Public health aims to address this by tackling health inequalities, which describe avoidable and unfair differences in health status between groups of people or communities. This model recognises that our health is determined by our genetics, our lifestyle, the health care we receive and the impact of wider determinants such as our physical, social and economic environment including, for example, education and employment.

This strategy supports the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition of taking a public health approach to reducing violent crime. A public health approach 'seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence'. By definition, public health aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. Programmes for primary prevention of violence based on the public health approach are designed to expose a broad segment of a population to prevention measures and to reduce and prevent violence at a population-level.

Public health principles provide a useful framework for investigating and understanding the causes and consequences of violence and can help to prevent violence from occurring in the first place through the implementation of primary prevention programmes, policy interventions and advocacy.

Violence is preventable and interventions, especially those in early childhood, not only prevent individuals developing a propensity for violence but also improve educational outcomes, employment prospects and long-term health outcomes. Tackling violence and its root causes can improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and have wider positive implication for the economy and society.

A public health approach is at the heart of this strategy because places that have implemented this approach have seen successful reductions in serious violence and exploitation. As such, Public Health will be leading a strategic action plan which will report to the Early Intervention and Violence Reduction forum as part of the Community Safety Partnership and will be published in Q1 2022/23.

# PRIORITY AREAS AND WHAT WE WILL DO TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

We will achieve our goals by following three simple principles throughout our work:

- Primary prevention – to tackle the conditions which allow violence to develop and breed. This first stage is the key stage to long-term prevention.
- Secondary prevention – early intervention to stop things getting worse if prevention hasn't been possible.
- Tertiary prevention – responding to violence once it has occurred, treating its effects and rehabilitating the people/areas affected. This is the most expensive option so the earlier the intervention the better for individuals, communities and wider society

We will deliver against these principles by ensuring we have a clear focus and commitment against these priority areas:



# PRIMARY PREVENTION

## PREVENTION

Get young people involved in as many activities as possible when they are aged 10-12

We are aware that early childhood experiences and factors such as poverty and racism have a significant impact on a person's life. We also know that serious violence can be prevented by ensuring all children have the best start in life and that they and their communities are supported to develop the means to identify and safely negotiate risk throughout their journey to adulthood.

We aim to prevent violence by providing children, young people, parents and professionals with information, which raises their awareness of the issues and helps them keep themselves safe, make positive choices about their behaviour and build their resilience.

Evidence shows that if we can intervene early in both the life course and in the stage of the problem, positive and sustainable outcomes are more likely to be achieved for individual children and communities alike.

### We will achieve this by:

- Establishing a Swindon wide 'public health approach' to tackle youth violence, which involves treating all groups fairly and engaging all residents and partners who can contribute to keeping our young people safe.
- Understanding and responding to the past and current experiences of children, young people and families, with a particular focus on the impact of trauma; through the development of the Swindon Family Safeguarding Model. The Family Safeguarding Model takes a whole family approach to child protection, providing help and supporting a families needs from different professionals working as one team.
- Working with parents to support them to create sustained change for themselves and their children with the aim to keep more children safely at home with their families.
- Developing a 'no wrong door approach'; as children and families will be signposted and supported to access appropriate services to meet their needs and be provided with early intervention at the earliest opportunity regardless of threshold.
- Increasing young people's access to and ownership of activities in their community which can have a positive impact on their lives
- Ensuring information about the borough's full youth offer is enhanced and brought into one centralised and easy-to-access place.

Teach students about what to do in that Situation [being exploited]. Introduce strategies to not make coming forward seem as intimidating

# SECONDARY PREVENTION

## IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT

We recognise that children and young people can experience harm from those within their home and outside of their home, which is known as extra-familiar harm. Early identification of these children and young people is paramount as they are vulnerable to being affected by youth violence and exploitation.

We aim to target those at risk of or affected by youth violence and provide them with the support they need, including enabling parents and professionals to support the young people with whom they are involved.

Evidence shows that if we can target resources at the communities and children most in need of our help, wider outcomes will be achieved for the residents of Swindon as a whole.

### **We will achieve this by:**

- The development of Swindon's Integrated Adolescent Service, which will identify and support children, young people and families who are at risk of serious youth violence and exploitation through relational, restorative and strengths based interventions that are focused on identity development and trauma recovery.
- Promoting Early Help and SEND support services to families where there are indications of additional need, particularly focussing on those who may be unlikely to ask for help.
- Partnership review of evidence based practice of what works and what is likely to have the greatest impact on reducing violence and exploitation. For example, reviewing the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit and evidence base.
- Development and enhancement of interventions at 'critical/teachable/reachable moments' to ensure children and young people are supported when they are likely to be at their most vulnerable and therefore most receptive to receiving help and support. For example our ENGAGE intervention at point of arrest in police custody and the Dorset & Wiltshire Firesetter Intervention Scheme, working on a one to one basis with the child and their family to address the fire play/ firesetting behaviour.
- Providing additional support in education for children with poor attendance, at risk of exclusion or have been excluded. This will include developing a 'team around our alternative provision' approaches and taking learning from our Youth Justice, youth engagement and Social work in schools teams.
- Encouraging and developing connections with businesses in Swindon to develop employment and training opportunities for those young people at risk of or affected by youth violence to open up suitable and attractive routes to employment.
- The development of services and additional support for young people aged 18 to 25 who are at risk of or affected by youth violence and are at risk of criminal exploitation. Including developing approaches to transitional safeguarding.

“ It is important to make sure the young person doesn't feel like they're constantly starting afresh with new people. This would help young people build trust with adults in their own time ”

# SECONDARY PREVENTION ENABLE COMMUNITIES

“  
You can't give the right help  
if you don't know what is  
happening in my life  
”

We are aware that Communities are at the heart of the children, young people and families that we work with.

Communities and non-traditional partnerships will be encouraged and empowered to form part of the solution in supporting children and young people away from exploitation and youth violence. Statutory services will seek support from communities to work alongside us to create a safer environment for all and opportunities for children, young people and families to play a crucial role within their community.

We will adopt the Swindon Participation Strategy vision to ensure 'all children, young people and the families who support them living in Swindon are enabled to have their voices heard and acted upon at all levels, i.e. in the individual support they receive and also strategically as to how services/organisations operate'.

Evidence shows by enabling communities you empower and give agency to those communities. By allowing communities to choose their own words and tell their own stories, members of local communities provide alternative points of view, helping to create complex narratives truly presenting their realities and solutions that have not yet been considered.

## **We will achieve this by:**

- Building upon local communities' strengths and resources to further develop preventative and supportive responses to youth violence, making it easier for local residents to get involved. This will be supported by the development of a communities focused sub group of the Community Safety Partnership
- Developing wider opportunities for children and young people to participate in activities to target and address violence and exploitation
- Working alongside community and parent led support groups and opportunities for parents to connect and support each other
- Supporting voluntary, faith and third sector youth organisations in Swindon to thrive and increase partnership approaches with statutory partners
- Developing our approach to place based working
- Developing our model of community conferences to find solutions to youth violence and exploitation

“  
We believe that support should  
start with setting long term goals.  
Attending a course or work  
experience could give young  
people new opportunities for the  
future and inspire them to do better  
”

# TERTIARY PREVENTION

## DISRUPT

We recognise that disrupting the patterns of youth violence, interrupting the activities of perpetrators and inhibiting the grooming and targeting process will make Swindon a safer place.

It has been recognised that the best way to tackle such a complex matter is through a multi-agency problem solving approach. The 4 Ps, Prepare, Prevent, Pursue and Protect provide a structure to highlight the different opportunities that are available to be used. Our plan will assist in the formulation of Problem Orientated Policing plans (POP) which relate to violent crime.

This plan is formulated in order to have an evidence-based approach and should be used in conjunction with POP plans. Furthermore it links into the College of Policing Pillars of Neighbourhood Policing themes of Engaging Communities, Solving Problems and Targeting Activity.

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Tackling exploitation by working with services, partners and communities
- Stopping access to weapons by working with partners, communities and businesses to identify and disrupt distribution
- Disrupting the drugs market by identifying and targeting trafficking activity and deterring those who may be involved in drug dealing
- Enabling safe and crime-free transport by identifying issues and working with agencies to limit illegal activity and behaviour around transport hubs
- Improving rehousing and resettlement offers for children and families at risk
- Ensuring the design and planning of local environments which help reduce crime and make residents feel safer. For example, our safer streets work
- Using multi agency information and intelligence to create a knife carriers index which allows partners to focus in on those causing most harm in communities
- Raising awareness of the Crimestoppers 'Fearless' Campaign, maximising intelligence to mitigate threat and risk
- Using knife arches for effective engagement event aimed at promoting knife crime messages and preventing violence
- Reduce the supply of knives to young people through engagement, education and enforcement activity with local businesses
- Remove the opportunity for crime to occur through modification of the physical environments
- Effectively utilise acceptable behaviour contracts with young people who have been involved with violent crime

# TERTIARY PREVENTION

## ENFORCE

We know that enforcement is a costly but necessary response to combat organised crime groups that drive much of the exploitation and violence in Swindon.

We aim to use appropriate enforcement against perpetrators using information and intelligence gathered by partner agencies. Wiltshire police will be relentless in rigorously enforcing those that cause disproportionate harm in communities, whilst at the same time recognising that in some circumstances there may be examples of children and young people having been exploited or classed as vulnerable. Enforcement and protection action will be targeted on those 'at the top' of the drugs market who exploit children and young people for profit.

The borough police, children, young people and the wider local community will work together to explore ways to ensure stop and search measures are seen to be used fairly, proportionally and in a respectful manner.

A stop and search scrutiny panel will ensure that any enforcement activity undertaken is legitimate and maintains the trust and confidence of the public.

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Effectively utilise anti-social behaviour powers such as closure orders and injunctions to prevent further offending with the victim at the heart of the process
- Use a multi-agency knife carries index to identify and target those that cause the greatest harm
- Ensure that community policing teams have a significant policing footprint, particularly in areas of deprivation where violent crime is disproportionately greater
- Use information and intelligence to target harden, especially where violent crimes have resulted in an increase in community tension
- Conducting enforcement campaigns under the banner of Op Sceptre, a national initiative to combat knife crime
- Complete community impact assessments for the courts which highlight the harm violent crime can cause in communities
- Effective use of knife crime prevention orders - Civil Orders that work with young people and adults that encourage them to stay away from knife crime and serious violence

“ We believe there needs to be a programme to support young people when they are in prison. Young people and young adults need goals to work towards ”

# IMPACT ON OUTCOMES FOR RESIDENTS OF SWINDON

We want this strategy to improve the life chances and outcomes for children in Swindon. The strategy specifically targets the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people in Swindon. The specific outcomes we would like to achieve through this strategy include:

- Increasing the number of community and non-traditional partnerships addressing youth safety
- Increasing the participation of children, young people and communities in developing the solutions to enhance youth safety
- Reducing the number of young people and young adults who are victims of violence
- Increasing the number of residents who report feeling safe in their communities
- Reducing the number of children entering or remaining in the criminal justice system by improving diversionary activity and activities focused on identity development
- Increasing the number of children and young adults who achieve in education, training and employment
- Improving children's physical and mental health and wellbeing through improved community cohesion and safety
- Tackling and disrupting the criminal gangs who make money from exploiting children

## **Governance and Monitoring**

We will monitor and evaluate this strategy via the work of the Early Intervention and Reducing Violence forum that forms part of Swindon's new Community Safety Partnership arrangements.

The new partnership arrangement promotes a shared commitment to work together and is designed to embed joint and collaborative working practices within and across agencies recognising effective multi-agency, flexible and co-ordinated services leading to better outcomes. The partnership model focuses on continuous learning and improvement with a clear line of sight on frontline practice.

The Swindon Community Safety Partners will support, enable and challenge each other to work together to:

- Provide effective and informed leadership to the local community safety system
- Deliver their shared responsibility for keeping children, young people, adults and communities safe across Swindon
- Strengthen the voice and promote positive working relationships with children, adults, families and communities
- Identify and act on learning
- Work more effectively and efficiently ensuring resources are used to their optimum
- Provide assurance to the Swindon community

We will involve children, families and communities at every stage of the process and in line with our existing participation strategy.

We will connect across our education settings through the school based groups established as part of the evolving ecosystem which includes education partners and monitor progress against the Council's Pledges through the Council's reporting structure and overview and Scrutiny panel.

# IMPACT ON OUTCOMES FOR RESIDENTS OF SWINDON

CONT.

## Measuring Success

We will measure success using a combination of approaches, from implementation to impact on outcomes for children, families and communities in Swindon. We are in the process of developing a strategic action plan for addressing serious violence reduction, which is being led by Public Health and the Community Safety Partnership.

The strategic action plan will adopt a life course preventative approach to tackling serious violence in Swindon. This will require partnership working across the Community Safety Partnership to address the underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of serious violence.

By identifying the early indicators and risk factors of serious violence in the action plan, this will inform key partners of interventions available to them locally to help reduce serious violent crime and inform and plan work at a systemic level to develop and enhance interventions available to communities in Swindon to tackle serious violence.

The strategic action plan will report to the Early Intervention and Reducing Violence forum as part of the Community Safety Partnership and will be published in Q1 2022/23.

## Evaluation

After each year of the strategy, we will ensure monitoring, evaluation and review, which will be a combination of impact on outcomes and feedback from our communities and key stakeholders to report back to residents and the council. The evaluation will help us learn:

- Which of the benefits of the strategy were short-lived and what has made a substantive impact and improved outcomes for children and communities
- The parts of the programme which should be highest priority for continued investment and development and also inform the national evidence base
- How we may adapt and review the strategy as we go forward to increase benefits for children, families and communities alike

“  
To talk to you is good as you care and are trying to understand how it is for me  
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