



SERIOUS VIOLENCE
REDUCTION
STRATEGY
2024-2027



Trafford
Community
Safety

PARTNERSHIP

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FOREWORD

I would like to welcome you to Trafford's Serious Violence Strategy, which sets out how we are working in partnership across the borough to prevent and respond to serious violence.

Whilst incidents in Trafford are much lower than other areas of the country, we know that a single incident can have a significant and devastating impact on victims, families and communities. One life lost to serious violence, is one too many.

Academic research tells us that violence is preventable but the causes and factors that lead to violence cannot be resolved by one organisation alone. As a partnership, we are committed to prioritising this issue and we will take a long-term approach to preventing violence, whilst responding appropriately, in the ways that our communities need where violence does occur.

That is why this strategy seeks to find the right balance between prevention and response and draws upon the wider work across Trafford that addresses risk factors for violence. It recognises the need for fairness, equity and justice and the need for individually tailored services as well as system wide approaches and values. As a partnership, we will develop a detailed plan to implement this strategy, the progress of which will be monitored by our Community Safety Partnership Board.

I look forward to continuing to support our communities across Trafford and the work of Trafford's Community Safety Partnership to tackle this important issue.

Councillor Rose Thompson
Executive Member for Communities and Safety



INTRODUCTION

This strategy sets out the partnership approach to preventing and responding to serious violence in Trafford and it has been developed by a multi-agency group who have worked in collaboration ensuring that there is the right balance between prevention and response.

Whilst the strategy is a legal requirement, and is being published in pursuance of The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, much work has already taken place to address the issue of violence and the risk factors that can lead to violence.

Therefore, whilst this strategy does not aim to duplicate wider workstreams, it needs to be read in conjunction with other strategies and plans that equally contribute to the aims of reducing violence.

These include but are not limited to:

- Domestic Abuse
- Exploitation Strategy
- Alcohol, Substance Misuse and Gambling Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Poverty Strategy
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Missing from Home
- Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Serious and Organised Crime / Challenger (Profile & Plan)
- GM Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures
- Reducing Re-offending Plan
- Trafford Health & Well-being Strategy
- GM Integrated Care Partnership Strategy

BACKGROUND



The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 requires Community Safety Partnerships to work together to reduce serious violence in their areas through the implementation of a violence reduction strategy.

In Trafford, much work was already underway to tackle the issue of serious violence, supported by funding and expertise provided by The Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit which was formed in 2019.

The development of this strategy has provided an opportunity for partners and communities to focus on what has been achieved so far, where our gaps are, and to use the data from the strategic needs assessment to be able to collaborate and plan for the future, aligning our approaches and agreeing a shared vision.

Whilst Trafford is a single borough, we also recognise the importance of working with our neighbours and ensuring a collaborative approach to cross-border issues.

As part of Greater Manchester, we wanted to ensure that the work being undertaken in Trafford was well-informed and based on evidence led approaches, and aligned to the wider Greater Manchester Strategy.


Our strategy has been informed by our Strategic Needs Assessment which can be read separately on Trafford Council's website.

What do we mean by 'serious violence'?

intentional harm either physical or psychological, that has a substantial or significant impact on the victim or wider community and which is often related to assaults, weapon-enabled crime, antisocial behaviour or homicide.

OUR AIM:

To collaboratively prevent and tackle serious violence across Trafford ensuring that it is a safe place for all.

 *We have excluded domestic abuse from this strategy as there is a separate domestic abuse strategy and needs assessment which can be found on the Trafford Partnership Website.*

OUR APPROACH:

TRAFFORD STRATEGY

PREVENTION

RESPONSE

PRINCIPLE 1:
Collaboration

PRINCIPLE 3:
Fairness, Equality &
Justice

PRINCIPLE 2:
Prevention &
Early Intervention

PRINCIPLE 4:
Trauma informed &
individually tailored
responses

We have adopted the World Health Organisation's 4 Step Approach to developing the needs assessments and strategic and tactical responses

SURVEILLANCE:

What is the
problem?

IDENTIFY RISK & PROTECTIVE FACTORS:

What are the causes?

IMPLEMENTATION:

Effective policy
responses

DEVELOP & EVALUATE INTERVENTIONS:

What works?

VIOLENCE IN TRAFFORD

Positively, the rate of violent crime in Trafford was lower than our statistical neighbours, and Greater Manchester in the year ending March 2023. However, between June 2022 and June 2023, we saw increases in violence against the person offences (11%), possession of weapons offences (26%), robbery offences (10%), sexual offences (6%) and an increase in drug related offences (72%).

Adults are the perpetrators of most violent crime in Trafford (72%) while 15% are carried out by ages 18-25 and 13% are carried out by those under the age of 18. With the figures adjusted for population size, 36% of violent crimes committed in the year ending June 2023 were in the North Neighbourhood, 24% in the South Neighbourhood, 20% in both the West and Central Neighbourhood.





Additionally, offending rates for young people positively correlate with deprivation.

A review of Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data in Trafford shows the rates of hospital admissions for violence had increased slightly in the periods leading up to 2021/22 following a decrease in 2019/20, but the rate remains statistically like the England average.

Knife crime offences for under 18-year-olds are lower compared with the period before COVID-19. Comparing data from 2016/17 to 2022/23 shows that there has been a reduction in serious youth violent incidents, and where these have occurred, few children have been involved.

VIOLENCE IN TRAFFORD:

Risk & Protective Factors (based on CAPRICORN MODEL)

Protective Factors		Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health problem solving • being ready for school • healthy social relationships • learning language 	 <p>INDIVIDUAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early malnutrition • Behavioural risk factors • Alcohol or drug misuse • Trauma • Speech & language difficulties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stable home environment • nurturing and responsive relationships • shared activities with parents • good, consistent parenting skills • parents being there consistently 	 <p>RELATIONSHIPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abuse • emotional or physical neglect • household alcohol or drug misuse • family violence • family breakdown • household offending • household mental illness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for sport and hobbies • community cohesion • safe environment • inclusion • opportunity for volunteering • available and accessible support 	 <p>COMMUNITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Poor housing • Unsafe areas • Lack of opportunities • High crime rate • High unemployment • Discrimination • Lack of recreation • Inaccessible services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fairness and equality • opportunities • investment in services • positive societal norms • low unemployment 	 <p>SOCIETY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequality (health, income, wealth, education, opportunities) • Culture /Normalisation of violence • Low social mobility • Lack of investment in services • High unemployment • Discrimination

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The impact that serious violence can have on individuals, families and communities, as well as a national rise in incidents means that this issue is now a priority nationally.

Statistics from 2014 to 2018, prior to the Covid Pandemic, show that there was an escalation in serious violence, with rises seen in homicide, knife and gun crime incidents in most police force areas.

The restrictions during the pandemic led to a decrease in incidents however since then, in some areas, incidences of serious violence have begun to climb again.

In April 2018, the government launched their serious violence strategy, which was followed by additional funding for key policing areas across the UK of which Greater Manchester was one, and a number of dedicated 'Violence Reduction Units' were established.

The Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit has established a team of subject leads and experts from Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Greater Manchester National Probation Service, Public Health, NHS, Education, Community Voluntary Sector, Victim's Voice, Youth Justice and Local Authorities, and they work to address the underlying causes of violence and collaborate with communities to prevent it.

In 2022, The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act received royal assent, and this placed a duty on specified authorities to come together to produce a strategic needs assessment and strategy for their area.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES TELL US:

94%

said that they feel safe/very safe in Trafford
This compares to the GM average of 88%

2%

of young people surveyed said they had bought a knife which is a reduction since 2020.

Knives were purchased online

59%

of young people surveyed said they were concerned about knife crime

Anti-Social Behaviour was the top reason given for what makes people feel unsafe

In 2 surveys conducted in the North of Trafford and the West of Trafford
Drugs were identified to be a primary concern

Main reason given for feeling safe was no personal experience of crime and a good sense of community.

PREVENTION & RESPONSE

In Trafford, it is our aim that we prevent violence from happening in the first place. In the same way as other public health issues, such as respiratory disease cause by smoking, we have adopted a public health model to the issue of serious violence.

Intervention after violence has occurred, both with individuals and groups but also incorporating response and recovery with the wider community. This could involve civil actions, a criminal justice response, policing operations, community engagement, targeted interventions designed to provide a response at this level, for example the 'Another Chance' programme based on the focused deterrence model.

Early intervention, targeted at the early signs of violence. In Trafford, this may include programmes such as mentoring through Youth Justice, the Steer Programme or our sports based mentoring programme. However, our strategy is to take a bespoke and tailored response to the individual or situation ensuring evaluated interventions that work.

Approaches that take place before violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration. This may be aimed at a population, for example through education and awareness campaigns and addressing the wider systemic risk factors for violence.



TERTIARY

SECONDARY

PRIMARY

PRINCIPLE 1: Collaboration

We will strengthen and grow our approaches across Trafford to engaging with our communities more widely about violence. We have already started this work but there is more to do, including speaking to young people who may not ordinarily take part in organised activities.

We will aim to do this through the partnership and with or voluntary and community sector and community leaders to ensure that those living in communities are at the forefront of driving change.

As part of our implementation plan, we will develop plans that set out the detail of how we intend to do this and timescales.

We will prioritise those who are less likely to have taken part in our more formal engagement activity previously, working closely with our outreach teams, and commissioned providers.

We will continue to build on the strengths of the partnership, recognising that the work across many organisations contributes to tackling the risk factors for violence.

The strategic approaches set out in this document are aligned to the wider work across Trafford that aims to improve health, address poverty and inequality and ensure that everyone in Trafford has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.



PRINCIPLE 2:

Prevention & Early Intervention

Preventing violence from happening in the first place underpins our approach to serious violence. Whilst our needs assessment shows that the majority of violence committed in the borough is perpetrated by adults (72%), a preventative approach starts from childhood.

Whilst the numbers being analysed in the borough are comparatively small, and therefore care must be taken when drawing conclusions, there is evidence both locally and nationally of a reduction of the age at which people are engaging in violence.

As a result, the partnership are developing plans to target more general preventative work to pre-secondary school children, particularly in areas which have higher levels of reported violence.

- We will continue to utilise the Youth Endowment Fund toolkit which helps partnerships to identify programmes and approaches which work and which have a solid evidence base.

- We will also further develop our approach to PPIED which identifies people who may be coming to the attention of partners and at risk of violence to ensure that they have a tailored offer to intervene and prevent violence from occurring.
- We will work to ensure that young people have the right opportunities to get into further education, training or employment and seek opportunities to reach those who may have dis-engaged.
- We will proactively work in partnership to target organised crime, disrupting activity and protecting those who are, or would be exploited.
- We will continue to strive to reduce school exclusions and promote good attendance, building upon the work of the exclusions protocol for violence/knife crime.

PRINCIPLE 2:

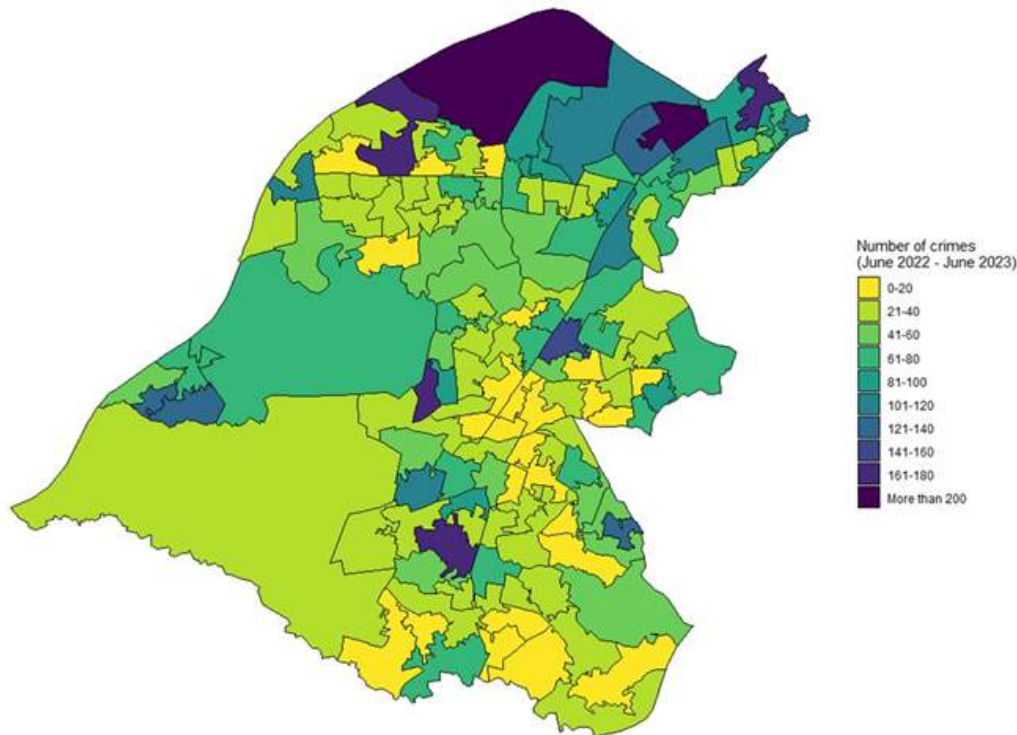
Prevention & Early Intervention

- We will continue to take a proactive and joined up approach to children or young people who are missing from home.
- The partnership is committed to ensuring that those who need to re-locate as a result of escaping organised crime or violence are supported to do so.
- We will work with partners to reduce the availability of knives to young people through education with retail premises, visits by officers and enforcement in conjunction with Trading Standards, Community Safety and The Police.
- We will support our communities and the VCSE sector through our grant funding mechanism to support initiatives that aim to prevent violence in the borough.
- We will improve the information available on the range of services, initiatives and support available through development of online information so that both the public and professionals can easily find the information that they need to access support or interventions.



PRINCIPLE 3: Fairness, Equality & Justice

We know that crime affects communities disproportionately. In Greater Manchester, the Violence Reduction Unit report that 5% of the population experience 25% of the crime. In Trafford, Gorse Hill & Cornbrook ward in the North Neighbourhood reported the highest number of violent crimes (530) in the last full year.



We know that deprivation and structural inequality can be risk factors for violence and it is the aim of the Partnership to address this, both through the work of the Community Safety Partnership but also in an influencing role across wider workstreams and approaches.

We will:

- tackle violence through conducting stop and search and removing knives and weapons off the streets in an intelligence-led and proportionate manner.
- Ensure the needs of neurodiverse people and those with special educational needs are considered and appropriately responded to.
- Work with partners and our communities to raise awareness of, and tackle hate crime.

PRINCIPLE 3:

Fairness, Equality & Justice

- keep under review demographic data as it relates to serious violence, highlighting any trends and anomalies to the Community Safety Partnership Board.
 - develop a separate work plan and strategy around gender based violence that complements this strategy and the domestic abuse strategy.
 - ensure that services and support are accessible to all residents across the borough, considering the different needs of communities.
 - ensure that young people have something to aspire to through the provision of opportunities in education, training, employment or business support and that relevant support is available to take up those opportunities.
- We will tackle wider risk factors for violence such as poverty and inequality through our [poverty strategy](#)



PRINCIPLE 4:

Trauma informed and individually tailored responses

We know, both from academic research and from our own reviewed in Trafford where violence has occurred that adverse childhood experiences and trauma are often a feature in the lives of those who perpetrate violence or who become a victim or witness of it.

It is therefore necessary that professionals are able to spot the signs of trauma and be able to respond appropriately.

The work undertaken by partners in preparing this strategy has identified that there is inconsistency across teams and organisations about trauma, and it is therefore a key commitment that this is improved across the board.

We are therefore pledging to:

- Improve and promote training for professionals
- Ensure that trauma is considered and responded to within policy and workstreams.

Beyond Barriers was awarded funding to develop a network of VCSE organisations in Trafford that create welcoming, trauma-sensitive environments, create a tool for asset mapping which 10 local organisations will use and develop training.

They have involved people with lived experience who shared their experience of barriers to getting help and ideas for improvement and this work is on-going.

They are now using their extra funding to work on healthy high streets, helping high street businesses to make them trauma sensitive and avoid triggering trauma for customers, creating a map of trauma-sensitive providers for residents and growing the network.

PRINCIPLE 4:

Trauma informed and individually tailored responses

Since the Community Safety Partnership was awarded funding in 2019 via The Violence Reduction Unit, it has allocated part of that funding for 'bespoke' responses. Whilst there are programmes and services across Trafford which are available to support those at risk of perpetrating or becoming a victim of violence, we have been committed to ensuring that we tailor our response to the individual and helping them to overcome any barriers that would otherwise present an obstacle to accessing support or services.

We have created a role for a Violence Reduction Co-ordinator who can support professionals and residents in finding the right solutions.

Sometimes that can be as simple as paying for and arranging transport, to more complex cases, where specialist therapeutic services have been funded.

The Partnership remains committed to ensuring that everyone is able to access the support that they require and that it is individually tailored to their needs.

We will develop our communications across organisations so that both the public and professionals can readily access information as to the help that is available.



MEASURING SUCCESS

In the interests of consistency and shared aims and outcomes, we will utilise the same measures of success as the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Strategy. These are:

A reduction in...



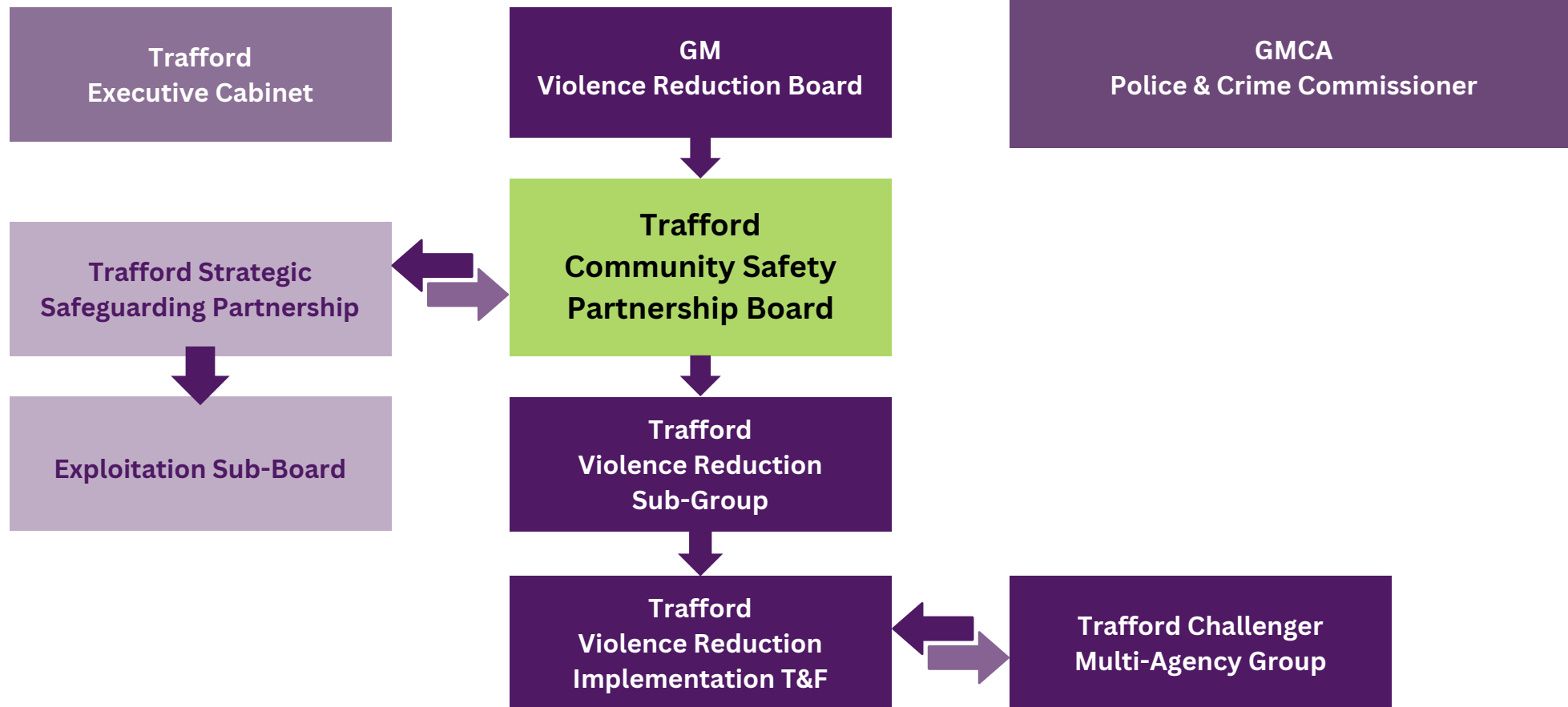
- Hospital presentations and admissions for assaults, especially among victims aged under 25.
- Knife-enabled serious violence, especially against victims aged under 25.
- Non-domestic homicides, especially against victims aged under 25.
- Robberies.
- The severity of serious violence incidents.
- Fear of knife crime and violence across all our communities.

An increase in...



- Feelings of safety across the city-region.
- Aspirations and hope for young people.
- Decision-making power of communities.

GOVERNANCE



FURTHER INFORMATION

This strategy was prepared by Trafford Community Safety Partnership.

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