



Serious Violence Duty

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Overview

- What is the Serious Violence Duty?
- How is Serious Violence defined?
- What are the requirements of the Duty
- How are WCC and RBKC approaching the Duty?
- Board asked to note the approach

Serious Violence Duty

- Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act, April 2022
- Commenced on 31 January 2023 and have until 31 January 2024 to comply with the Duty
- The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence including to:
 - be part of a multi-agency partnership to reduce serious violence
 - produce a serious violence strategic needs assessment and strategy

Police

Justice
Probation & YOT

Fire &
Rescue

Health
ICB

Local
Authorities

Definition

“Domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence but does not include terrorism”

The Act

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

London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

Requirements



Bi-borough approach



Data

Children's &
Families:
Assessments, school
exclusions, missing

IGXU / Youth
Violence Reduction
Service

MPS CRIS data

Adult Safeguarding
Assessment/
Concerns

VAWG: MARAC and
Angelou

London Ambulance
Service assaults
(WCC)

Rescue & Response

ASB data: Housing &
MPS

Hospital Emergency
Dept assault data
(not added for RBKC
as data limited)

YOS data

National Probation
Service

Fire data

Key findings from Westminster's SNA

Nearly half of all serious violence offences in Westminster occurred in just 2 wards, West End and St James's Park. Over half took place during the night-time economy.

Serious youth violence (under 25)

- Young people (under 25) account for 14% of all identified accused of crime and 25% of crime victims.
- Three-quarters of young victims were aged 18-24.
- Estimated 6% of knife crime in Westminster involved injury to a young person.
- Young people are more likely to be victims of sexual offences and robbery, and to be accused of robbery and drugs offences.
- Complex needs: substance misuse, mental health, communications needs, SEN.

Domestic abuse

- Domestic abuse recorded offences have increased by 10% and with injury by 8%.
- Sanctioned detection rates have begun to plateau at about 12%.
- Males make up 39% of all victims of domestic abuse compared with 26% last year.
- Greatest needs include health and well-being and accommodation and housing.

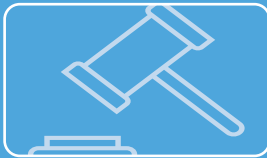
Sexual violence

- Sexual offences increased by 62% (MPS 16%)
- 27% were rape and 73% other sexual offences.
- Over half of the offences were in St James's and West End wards.
- Offences peaked in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday.
- Profile of sexual offence victims is predominately females (83%) and 42% were aged 18-25.
- Only 8.7% of sexual offences achieved a sanctioned detection compared with 30% 9 years ago

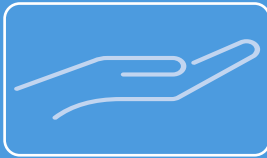
Draft Westminster recommendations



Tackling Serious Violence & Exploitation



Work together to tackle the drivers...
Provide support and positive opportunities...
...deliver effective enforcement and deliver justice for victims



Deliver multi-agency co-ordinated approaches to vulnerable victims ...
Work together to ... reduce repeat victimisation
Support victims ...



Improve communication with the public ...
Build and maintain effective relationships with local communities ... to give local people the opportunity to influence our work..



Ensure we have a comprehensive education package in ...
Ensure every contact makes a positive impact



Work together to better understand the risk and protective factors through improved data and information sharing ...



Spotlight On...

Combating
Drugs
Partnership

Serious Youth
Violence

Violence
against Women
& Girls

Modern Slavery
& Exploitation

Key findings from RBKC's SNA

Serious youth violence (under 25)

- Low number of accused, despite increase in offences with a victim under age 25 years.
- Female victims are higher than males for this age group (58% of victims of all offence types). This includes violent assaults which are not domestic, where females are 55% of victims. Male victims are highest in number for robbery offences (81%) and knife injury offences (14 of 18 in previous 12 months).
- Black community are disproportionately represented in victim statistics in this age group with 43.1 per 1000 residents (compared to 18.5 per 1000 white residents in this age group).
- CYP affected by violent offending have complex needs and multiple services working with families. YOT data 45% have Speech, language, communication, or neuro - disability concerns. Youth Violence Panel - 10 different services working to support young people outside statutory provision.


Domestic abuse

- MARAC referrals for females much higher percentage (91%) compared to all police victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) (61% are female).
- A low sanction detection rate for domestic abuse (10%) makes it difficult to determine profile of accused.
- The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) data does not provide information regarding perpetrators or type of violence due to low SD rate.
- Experience of DA is a significant feature for children - 196 children in households where a MARAC referral has been made, DA part of 191 children in safeguarding needs assessments (2022/23)
- Number of victims referred to MARAC with disability high (17%).
- Although 26% of ethnicity data missing for victims, as a rate per the resident population Black victims are proportionally higher with 30.8 victims per 1000 residents (compared to 11.5 per 1000 residents for white victims).

Sexual violence

- Low sanction detection rate (6%) makes it difficult to determine an accurate profile of accused.
- MARAC data does not provide information regarding perpetrators or type of violence (e.g. physical assault or sexual violence for serious violence duty consideration).
- Victims age of those reporting is skewed towards younger years with 66% of victims under 34 years and 18 to 24 years accounting for 21%.

Draft RBKC recommendations



Improve our understanding of low sanction detection rates across all themes and reduce the data gap for perpetrators.

Review of the lived experience of female victims and understand if there are gaps in the specialist support services available.

Improve our understanding of victims views on what successful outcomes are following an assault or incident and how to deliver these.

Develop a clear intersectional approach to tackling VAWG where the survivor has a disability. This to include: training for practitioners, improved data capture to understand need and gaps, co-production with victim/survivors to commission appropriate services.

Co-design projects which address the local disproportionality of Black communities affected by violence, across all themes.

The DA Act 2021, recognises children as victims too. It is important that all partner agencies and Council departments build this approach into their practice.

Board asked to:



Note the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty

Note the scope of data and approaches to resident and stakeholder engagement for SNA and strategy development

Note the formats of the SV strategies in each borough

Note the key findings from the strategic assessments and draft recommendations

Next Steps

