

Walsall All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy

Version 7.1 – 26/08/21
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1. Introduction

1.1. Violence and Exploitation across Walsall Borough

Violence and exploitation are key issues across Walsall Borough influencing both the health and wellbeing of our population and lead to significant health inequalities. Violence and exploitation can have an impact right across the life course, with potentially devastating consequences. Whilst many people survive their experience of violence and/or exploitation, the impact that it has on their physical and mental health and wellbeing can be long lasting and severe. We believe that violence and exploitation are preventable and by working in partnership and engaging with our communities and a range of agencies across Walsall we aim to reduce and ultimately bring an end to these behaviours and so improve the health and wellbeing of our population.

To achieve this aim we need to take a whole-system multi-agency approach. We need to continue to work together, across multiple agencies and organisational boundaries, to identify and address the root causes and drivers, and promote factors that protect individuals from becoming involved in violence and exploitation in the first place. We also need to be able to identify those people who are at risk of committing violent crimes, or being a victim of violence and/or exploitation, at an early stage and intervene early.

“By adopting a Public Health approach, violence can be prevented. A range of different interventions throughout the life course can reduce individuals’ propensity for violence, lower the chances of those involved in violence being involved again and ensure that those affected by violence get the support they require” (Bellis et al 2012)

1.2. The West Midlands Office for Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been awarded government funding to set up a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). VRUs are multi-agency units, bringing together partners across the county to tackle and prevent serious violence.

Whilst serious violence has been described as a “public health” problem for over a decade, there has been renewed interest in the benefits of taking this approach, after the success of the Scottish VRU at reducing knife crime related injuries.

1.3 Whole-system multi-agency approach

Taking a “whole-system multi-agency approach” to preventing and reducing violence and exploitation refers to how we view the issue and how we can work together to prevent violence and exploitation across Walsall Borough.

Such an approach is known as a “public health approach” approach. This does not mean that that it is the responsibility of Public Health alone to deal with and resolve the issues identified. Rather it is a methodology that, in this case, treats violence and exploitation like an infectious disease. It suggests that policy makers should search for a ‘cure’ by using scientific evidence to identify what causes violence and exploitation and find interventions that work to prevent them spreading. A ‘public health’ approach involves multiple public services, working together, gathering and sharing data and intelligence and implementing early interventions to prevent members of the community from becoming involved in exploitation or in violent crime.

Alongside this Public health approach we will be working with our communities to ensure we maximise their appropriate involvement in our work against exploitation.

The approach described above is an extension of the way that many agencies are currently moving.

2. Strategic Objectives

Our vision

Our overall goal is to prevent violence and exploitation, reduce the harm caused and thus improve health and wellbeing across Walsall Borough.

Step 1: Build Strong Foundations:

Understand the “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “how” associated with it. This involves analysing data and intelligence, engaging with our communities, analysing the evidence and implementing a public health approach

Step 2: Primary Prevention:

Recognise when intervention is needed at an early stage and put appropriate in place, for example early years support.

Step 3: Secondary Prevention:

Recognise those who are vulnerable to violence and exploitation and intervene (individuals and communities) to prevent further harm. Encourage a culture of professional curiosity, training staff about contextual safeguarding and trauma informed practice.

Step 4: Tertiary Prevention:

Support those who have been harmed and intervene to support them to cope, recover & rebuild their lives.

Step 5: Enforcement & Criminal Justice:

Work in cross cutting ways, developing innovative practice, delivering effective enforcement across the borough and maximise the safety of individuals vulnerable to exploitation.

There is an explicit intention to use evidenced based interventions, where available, or where not available emerging good practice will be adopted for use in the Walsall context.

Additionally, for all of the five strands, we will work with our partners to evaluate community projects/interventions to contribute and build upon the evidence base on the effectiveness of different interventions.

Long term, meaningful, sustainable change, may well require a shift in the way agencies and individuals work, how our communities perceives violence and exploitation and how well our interventions suit their needs. Therefore, our communities need to co-design our solutions with us, so we are tailoring the approach at “place level.” Co-production can build trust within our communities and we need to ensure that they feel empowered to make a difference. Additionally, we need to acknowledge the fact that this change will be complex and that it may take time to become embedded.

2.2 Expected outcome measures:

A separate detailed evaluation plan will be developed to outline outcomes in more detail and monitor progress. However, the expected outcomes will include:

- ✓ Improved data sharing, analysis and problem solving.

- ✓ Develop a greater wealth and depth of data surrounding violence and exploitation outcomes and risk/protective factors across Walsall Borough.
- ✓ A reduction in the prevalence of risk factors and an increase in the prevalence of protective factors for violence and exploitation.
- ✓ Increased awareness of the links between Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of exploitation and violent incidents.
- ✓ Reduction in hospital admissions and attendances for assaults with a knife or sharp object.
- ✓ Reduction in knife- enable serious violence.
- ✓ Reduction in all non-domestic homicides
- ✓ Safer and stronger communities
- ✓ Improved partnership and inter-agency working

At the core of this, is partnership working- we need to work across organisational boundaries to tackle this issue, working as a whole system at a place level. Partners need to have a shared understanding of the approach that is being taken, and a common vision. We need to know what is driving the problem and address the wider determinants (such as housing, education, employment) which have an impact on violence and exploitation. We need to focus on how we can prevent people in our community from being involved, or at risk of, violence and exploitation before it starts or detect it early. We should be considering how we can reduce this risk across the population, as well as targeting individuals who are more at risk of becoming involved in violence and exploitation. Finally, the approach we take, the decisions we make, needs to be driven by high quality data. We need to consider how we can best maximise the data that we have in the system, and how we can work across agencies to have a greater impact through the sharing of information.

For long term, meaningful, sustainable change, we need a shift in the way we work, how our communities perceives violence and exploitation and how well our interventions suit their needs. Therefore, our communities need to be actively engaged in co-designing solutions with us. Co-production can build trust within our communities and we need to ensure that they are empowered to make a difference. Additionally, we need to acknowledge the fact that this change will be complex and that it may take time to become embedded.

2.3 Aims of strategy:

This strategy focuses on how to reduce and prevent future violence and exploitation across Walsall. The key aims of this strategy are:

- To review and use data and intelligence (e.g. high-level findings from the strategic needs assessment) to inform the short term and long-term priorities for Walsall Borough.
- To highlight and identified actions required to address the “causes of the causes.”
- To have a strong focus on prevention (including primary, secondary and tertiary prevention).
- To ensure that there is a co-ordinated multi-agency approach (which includes all organisations, the voluntary sector and the communities themselves), to protecting, preventing and supporting children, young people and their families, who are involved in, or at risk of, serious violence and exploitation.

Serious violence and exploitation are inextricably linked to a wide range of factors. We know that many agencies across Walsall are working together to promote protective factors, reduce risk factors, and prevent violence and exploitation across the county. Therefore, this strategy needs to be

considered in a wider context, and it recognises and reflects the ongoing multi-agency work occurring across Walsall.

This strategy aims to align with other relevant strategies, including: Community Safety Plan, Domestic Abuse strategy, Child Sexual Exploitation strategies, Drug and Alcohol strategic priority plans and the breadth of work covered by the Local Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards. This strategy will be supported by an annual action plan and reporting.

2.4 Governance of Strategy

The governance of this strategy sits with the Safer Walsall Partnership.

Commitment to, and engagement from partners and stakeholders, will be supported and driven through the Safer Walsall Partnership and wider partnership boards including the Safeguarding Board. This strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it reflects the current issues and priorities for violence and exploitation across Walsall.

2.5 Definitions and scope

The Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office in 2018, includes the following types of crime within the strategy: “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. It also includes emerging crime threats faced in some areas of the country such as the use of corrosive substances as a weapon.”

The table below outlines the key areas of focus, risk and protective factors for serious violence and exploitation that have been included in this strategy. This broad approach has been taken due to the overlap and interplay of the drivers or “root causes” of serious violence and exploitation.

Key topics and common links/ risk factors covered within this strategy

Key areas of focus	Common links and risk factors	Protective factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence with injury • Violence without injury • Knife crime • Possession of weapon offences • Exploitation- including criminal child exploitation, child sexual exploitation, and online exploitation • Sexual assault • Organised crime, drugs related violence including county lines (demand and supply) and modern slavery and human trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing persons • Homicide • Robbery • Hate crimes • Radicalisation • Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma • Drugs • Alcohol related violence • Mental Health • Anti-social behaviour • Domestic Abuse • Peer abuse • School exclusions • Anti-social behaviour • Youth offending and re-offending-children and young people in the criminal justice system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good school readiness • Academic achievement • Healthy problem solving • Emotional regulation skills • Warm parent youth relationships • Positive relationships with adults (including teachers) • Consistent limits set by parents • Safe and stable housing • Household financial security • Safe community spaces • Access to services and social support • Economic opportunities

2.5 All Age Strategy

This strategy is an ‘all age strategy’ as this is intended to ensure that there is a whole community focus for the delivery. However, the results of data and intelligence gathering will determine both the work to be undertaken and those who will be the target group for the activity or intervention.

2.6 Resilient Communities

Over the last two years the capability of the voluntary and community sector has been identified as an underutilised resource. Their work in supporting residents has been recognised and applauded by statutory partners. All Age Exploitation is another area where the voluntary and community sector can play a major role in tackling a key issue for Walsall.

Resilient Communities and our community sector will have had and will continue to have a key role in identifying, supporting and providing safe places for victims of exploitation. We will utilise and build on the trusted position of community organisations and venues to complement statutory support. There are already many examples of how exploitation is identified in communities, ranging from providing appropriate support and signposting for individuals in need of help to providing additional intelligence to enable appropriate help, support and assistance to be provided to victims.

3. Development of strategic priorities and objectives

Where are we now?

A rapid Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is being conducted in parallel to this strategy. This will provide a high-level overview of the scale of the problem of violence and exploitation across Walsall Borough and the trends over time. Additionally, it will provide estimates of the prevalence of some of the “risk” and “protective” factors associated with violence and exploitation, at an individual, close relationship and societal level. Due to the rapid nature of the piece of work, consultation with partners to interpret the findings and key priorities has not yet been completed. Local context is required to understand and interpret any key findings- this a key recommendation of the SNA, alongside other focused areas of analysis and exploration. This strategy will be reviewed in six months, after the consultation process of the SNA, to reflect the updated key findings and priorities. A wide range of partners have had an input into the development of the strategic objectives set out in this strategy. However, there was not a formal consultation process with young people, or those people who are involved in violence and exploitation. After this strategy is published the Safer Walsall Partnership will work with children and young people to develop a one-page visual of this strategy, summarising their priorities in a format that is friendly for children and young people.

Theme	Example of expected key findings / gaps
Crime Type	Overall violent offences (including sexual offences) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime rates map relatively closely to deprivation across Walsall.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greatest proportion of violence related hospital admissions was in 20-29 year olds. • A large number of violence related hospital admissions also had a "mental health" specific ICD code listed in the diagnostic field
	<p>Knife crime, gun crime, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), drugs market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing number of recorded knife and firearms crimes-this may be partly due to improved recording of these crimes. • Strong association between OCGs, firearms and drugs supply. • There is a regionally significant drugs market. Drugs misuse is strongly associated with mental health conditions and alcohol dependence.
	<p>Sexual assault and domestic abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing number of recorded crimes, which may be due to more victims coming forward and improved recording of offences. • Extremely underreported crimes, with only a very small proportion of crimes being recorded
	<p>Child sexual exploitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent increasing trend in number of Child Sexual Exploitation crimes recorded- this may be due to increasing awareness of the multi-agency information submission form.
	<p>Intergenerational violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of local data and national research about intergenerational violence.
Risk and protective factors	<p>Learning Difficulties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly higher proportion of pupils with Learning Disability (% of school-aged pupil) and rate of children with moderate learning difficulties in compared to their respective deprivation deciles. • Significantly higher rate of children with severe learning difficulties compared to their respective deprivation deciles. • Significantly higher rate of children with autism known to schools compared to its deprivation decile.
	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly lower proportion of children achieving 5 or more GCSEs at 5A* across to their comparator areas. • School readiness (good level of development at the end of reception) and school readiness at the end of reception in children with free school meal status

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly, higher rate of pupil absence compared to its respective deprivation decile. • Significantly higher rates of fixed period exclusion due to persistent disruptive behaviour in compared to their respective deprivation deciles.
	<p>Risk taking behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively high proportion of risk taking behaviours in young people (secondary school) across the county: including taking/trying illegal drugs, alcohol and smoking. • Relatively high proportion of young people who know someone/think they know someone who takes drugs and access to alcohol from parents/carers and their homes. • Significantly, higher percentage of 15 year olds who have ever tried cannabis and tobacco compared to its deprivation decile. • Significantly, higher percentage of 15 year olds who are regular drinkers compared to its deprivation decile.
	<p>Looked after children and child protection plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly higher rate of children under age of 18 in need due to abuse or neglect compared to their respective deprivation deciles.
	<p>Income deprivation and housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher proportion of children living in income deprived households compared to their respective deprivation deciles. • Significantly higher rate of homeless young people (aged 16-24) and family homelessness compared to their respective deprivation deciles.
	<p>Mental health and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average wellbeing score of 15 year olds is similar to deprivation decile average for evidence base for “risk” and “protective” factors for violence and exploitation
Data sharing	There are multiple individual sources of data providing a snapshot of violence and exploitation. However, linked data is required to triangulate the information and gain a deeper understanding of a) hotspot areas b) the cohorts affected (victims and offenders).
Public perceptions	There is a relatively high level of public concern about drug dealing, alcohol, knife crime, gangs and youth ASB affecting perceptions of community safety
	There are lower levels of knowledge and awareness of exploitation in the local area

Priority A: Attitudinal change

Changing attitudes and behaviours towards all types of violence and exploitation at a societal, community and personal level.

Objectives:

- Strengthen community resilience and increase perceived safety, continuing to work with communities and partners to support areas of Walsall Borough where violence is normalised, to change the narrative around violence.
- Encourage communities to develop “place-based” solutions and allow young people to have a voice and co-design solutions.
- Continue to engage with our community and voluntary groups, to give them the opportunity to guide and influence our objectives at a place level.
- Build upon and strengthen positive relationships between our communities, Walsall Borough Police and service providers, to increase trust and engagement and confidence in the partnership process to protect communities.
- Emphasise that violence is preventable, and shift beliefs around violence.
- Promote young people more positively using traditional and non-traditional media.
- Share positive stories of interventions that have reduced violence and exploitation, highlighting the positive impact of our work across Walsall Borough, through different forms of media (including social media).
- Develop a counter narrative, working with the community to identify ‘alternative’ initiatives, using its assets (including long-term opportunities for employment).
- Ensure that we engage with, and work with, the victims of serious violence and exploitation, and their families for them to design and support our prevention work. Use evidence from other areas of what has “worked well.”
- Challenge the assumption that knife- carrying is “normal.” Work with communities and young people for them to understand that knife or other weapon carrying should not be tolerated within peer groups and within the wider community.
- Raise community awareness of the signs of exploitation (including child sexual exploitation, organised crime, county lines and modern day slavery) and the scale of the problem within our local community.

Expected outcomes:

- ✓ An increase in disclosures and information provided by residents and communities.
- ✓ Improved levels of community confidence in the partnership process.
- ✓ Evidence of greater community/business involvement in local problem solving.
- ✓ Positive changes in the perception of safety across Walsall Borough. Reduced fear about violence and exploitation in our communities, particularly in children and young people.
- ✓ Evidence of a youth voice in everything that we do.
- ✓ An increase in the engagement with the serious violence and exploitation agenda by agencies, schools and communities. Schools and colleges have a greater understanding of their role in preventing serious violence and exploitation.

Priority B: Stop violence and exploitation before it begins (*Primary Prevention*)

We want to stop violence and exploitation before it even begins. We want to prevent “risk factors” of serious violence and exploitation and promote “protective factors.”

Objectives:

- Ensure that serious violence and exploitation are included as a strategic issue on all of the Health Boards across Walsall Borough, with a clear plan on how to reduce violence and exploitation(1).
- Promote protective factors in children, working with parents/carers and support their relationships with their children. Ensure that parents/carers are informed about the value of parenting programmes, and the potential consequences of not participating in these programmes.
 - Ensure that all children have a trusted adult to talk to and for support.
- For all front line professionals (including school staff, healthcare professionals and staff within the voluntary sector) to be aware of the drivers of violence and exploitation, and how to identify and prevent these factors and promote protective factors.
- Increased education and training about the risks and potential consequences of knife carrying and being involved in violence and exploitation, including county lines and drug demand/supply. Take a universal and innovative approach for delivering these messages.
- Ensure that all schoolchildren receive high quality, engaging training on how to keep safe online.
- Ensure that all young people between 16-18 year olds are provided with a structured education or apprenticeship offer.

Continue, and build upon, the ongoing work being carried out across Walsall Borough which:

- Strongly advocates for early years support across Walsall Borough, as this is crucial for preventing the risk factors associated with serious violence and exploitation.
- Ensures that school aged children and young people have a good understanding about healthy and safe relationships, based on respect, empathy and connectivity, through PHSE and Relationship and Sex Education.
- Promotes resilience, mental wellbeing, self-esteem, confidence and emotional literacy (as protective factors), in children and young people from an early stage.
- Aims to address the “root causes” of violence and exploitation, improving the wider determinants of health (e.g. public health, community safety, children’s services, housing, education, employment).

Expected outcomes:

- ✓ A reduction in the prevalence or rate of risk factors for violence and exploitation as highlighted in the Strategic Needs Assessment (Public Health England).
- ✓ An increase in the prevalence or rate of protective factors for violence and exploitation the Strategic Needs Assessment (Public Health England)

Priority C: Early detection and early intervention (*Secondary Prevention*)

We want to recognise those people who are at risk of violence and exploitation and intervene at an early stage, with prompt and effective treatment

Objectives:

- For all frontline agencies across Walsall Borough to be ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) aware and trauma informed.
- Front line professionals are able to detect individuals or communities that are already involved in, or at higher risk of being involved in, violence and exploitation. Ensure that they have the knowledge, skills and confidence to intervene early and understand referral pathways (including

National Referral Mechanisms, Walsall Borough VERU, Serious Youth Violence Panel, MASH, MARAC and VARAC services).

- Siblings, families and close contacts of individuals involved in violence and exploitation are identified early and given the appropriate support as part of contextual safeguarding.
- Increased knowledge of violence during school hours, around before, and after school time, working with schools and colleges. .
- Data and intelligence from multiple organisations (police, hospital attendances, and ambulance) is used to highlight “at risk” areas for serious violence and exploitation. Use this to inform our planning and interventions to improve community safety, reduce the misuse of drugs and alcohol, and reduce serious violence, alcohol- related injuries, sexual assault and exploitation.
- Raise awareness of issues related to violence and exploitation across specific industries e.g. hoteliers, motorway service stations, football clubs, night time economy, security, shopping centres, fast food outlets, taxi companies, barber/hairdressers and services that go into people’s homes (e.g. plumbers, electricians).
- Continue to support existing and established services, which support those at risk of being involved in violence and exploitation at an early stage, to ensure effective, sustainable and consistent services across Walsall Borough.
- Continue, and build upon, the ongoing work being carried out across Walsall Borough which:
- Supports children and young people who have speech and language delay, neuro-developmental issues, learning disabilities or mental health issues.
- Aims to reduce the number of children and young people who are excluded from school or other educational settings.
- Identifies individuals who have been in contact with the police due to anti-social behaviour (ASB) or may be at risk becoming involved in violence and/or exploitation, through improved data sharing between agencies. Ensure that these children and young people receive targeted education and support.
- Works with other Local Authorities who place vulnerable children and young people into Walsall Borough, to ensure that these individuals are known about and given early support.

Expected outcomes:

- ✓ Earlier access to support services
- ✓ An increase in the number of children and young people who are engaged with interventions
- ✓ Reduced NEETs across Walsall Borough.
- ✓ Reduced fixed and permanent school exclusions.
- ✓ Consistent recording and sharing of risks
- ✓ Increase in safeguarding referrals and ASB referrals from all relevant partners
- ✓ Greater professional awareness leading to increase in individuals identified and referred for support
- ✓ A reduction in the number of missing young people.

Priority D: Manage and reduce risks (*Tertiary Prevention*)

Manage and reduce the risk for those who are already involved in violence and exploitation, to avoid crises and reduce its harmful consequences. We want to provide rehabilitation of people with established violent behaviour, to prevent re-offending and provide support and rehabilitation to victims and their families.

Objectives:

- Ensure that individuals who are currently involved in violence and/or exploitation are offered different opportunities for support and mentoring (including from those with lived experience). Provide a counter-narrative to highlight future opportunities.
- Continue to support existing and established services, which support those who are involved in violence and exploitation to ensure effective, sustainable and consistent services across Walsall Borough.
- Ensure that front line professionals are provided with education and training on “teachable moments” or “making every contact count,” particularly within specific services e.g. within A+E and Youth Offending.
- Support the Walsall Borough Criminal Exploitation Partnership, using the Home Office Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit and developing a contextual safeguarding approach.
- Ensure that there is a clear and supportive process for vulnerable adults who are transitioning from children’s services to adult’s services, particularly for those people with low level support needs who may fall through the gaps in social, health and housing provision who may be vulnerable to exploitation in adulthood.
- Ensure that individuals who are involved (victims or offenders) in violence and exploitation are able to access support for their mental health and wellbeing.
- Develop a greater understanding of the scale of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the role of females in County Lines. Also, develop a greater understanding of the link between Child Sexual Exploitation, County Lines and Missing.
- Ensure effective information sharing and joint working to identify those involved and maintain an accurate profile of Serious Youth Violence to enable targeted, evidenced based activity and interventions.
- Support work carried out by specialists to provide emotional counselling and practical support for children, young people and their families involved in violence and exploitation. Ensure that these services link closely with other relevant services across the county e.g. Youth Offending Services and early help. Continue, and build upon, the ongoing work being carried out across Walsall Borough which supports individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system to find employment.
- Supports individuals who are homeless and are at risk of violence and exploitation to find stable and safe accommodation. Work with housing teams to raise awareness of the challenges associated with violence and exploitation.

Expected outcomes:

- ✓ Earlier access to support services
- ✓ A reduction in the rate of young people entering the Criminal Justice System
- ✓ A reduction in the rate of re-offending
- ✓ An increase in the number of individuals exiting offending behaviour

Priority E: Criminal Justice, Enforcement and Rehabilitation Innovative criminal justice practices that reduce offending behaviour and recidivism.

Objectives:

- Ensure that the Criminal Justice System is an ACE aware and trauma- informed environment. Understand the role of the whole criminal justice system in supporting our whole-system multiagency approach.

- Ensure that there is a coordinated multi-agency approach for those young people who are already involved in violence and exploitation, through the Serious Youth Violence Panel.
- Avoid criminalising children, young people and vulnerable adults where possible, using a trauma informed approach
- Work with all relevant partners to prevent and disrupt offending behaviours and support people to reduce reoffending, developing a robust multiagency plan to carry this work forward. Continue and strengthen the ongoing work across Walsall Borough which aims to change the course of those with violent offending habits, including work focusing on rehabilitation, recovery from drug and alcohol dependency, resettlement, employment and access to health services.
- Continue to undertake targeted activity and interventions, including overt police activity, to tackle and reduce drugs, knife and gun crime in affected areas
- Support interventions that promote restorative justice, and continue to work with victims and their families and communities to deliver restorative justice programmes
- Ensure that victims, and their families, are supported throughout their journey in the criminal justice system to promote recovery
- Ensure that members of the public are confident to report serious violence and exploitation and that they feel that their concerns are valid and they are listened to.
- Strengthen our message to the local community that carrying a knife and other weapons is not acceptable and will not be tolerated by the Walsall Borough police.
- Take action to identify and prosecute retailers who sell knives and other weapons to children and young people.
- Improve reporting of specific crimes that are known to be consistently underreported e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse. Work with our partner organisations to share data (ambulance, A+E) to identify the scale of the under-reporting and respond to this.

Expected outcomes:

- ✓ An increase in the number of multi-agency information submission forms received by Police Central Intelligence Bureau and the local Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub.
- ✓ An increase in action taken against those causing harm to others

Overall expected measures:

The overall expected outcomes (as a result of the five priorities) are shown below.

A separate detailed evaluation plan will be developed to outline outcomes in more detail and monitor progress.

Expected outcomes

- ✓ Improved data sharing, analysis and problem solving.
- ✓ Develop a greater wealth and depth of data surrounding violence and exploitation outcomes and risk/protective factors across Walsall Borough.
- ✓ A reduction in the prevalence of risk factors and an increase in the prevalence of protective factors for violence and exploitation, as highlighted in the Strategic Needs Assessment.
- ✓ Increased awareness of the links between Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of exploitation and violent incidents.
- ✓ Reduction in hospital admissions and attendances for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25 (Home Office success measure).

- ✓ Reduction in knife- enable serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25, based on police recorded crime data (Home Office success measure).
- ✓ Reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25, including knives (Home Office success measure)

6. Glossary

Term	Definition
Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)	<p>“Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is not defined in law but is a term that has come to be associated with ‘county lines’. The government definition of county lines is set out below together with the Home Office definition of child criminal exploitation, which is increasingly used to describe this type of exploitation where children are involved. CCE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In exchange for something that the victim needs or wants. • For the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator. • Through violence or the threat of violence. <p>The victim may have been criminally exploited, even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology. The criminal exploitation of children is not confined to county lines but can also include other forms of criminal activity such as theft, acquisitive crime, knife crimes and other forms of criminality.</p>
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<p>Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited, even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology</p>
Contextual Safeguarding	<p>A contextual safeguarding approach seeks to create a response to extra familial forms of abuse that can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target the contexts in which that abuse occurs, from assessment through to intervention • Frame work to address extra-familial risk through the lens of child welfare, as opposed to crime reduction or community safety • Utilise partnerships between children’s services and agencies who have a reach into extra-familial contexts (such as transport providers, retailers, youth workers, residents associations, parks and recreation services, schools and so on), and; • Measure success with reference to the nature of the context in which harm has been occurring, rather than solely focusing on any behaviour changes displayed by young people who were at risk in those contexts
County Lines	<p>County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more</p>

	importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.
Knife crime	There is no Home Office definition of 'knife crime'. The phrase was adopted by the media and is now popularly used to refer primarily to stabbings but also to the illegal carrying of knives by young people in a public place or on school premises. However, 'knife-enabled crime' includes a variety of other offences involving a bladed weapon, for example it is an offence to cause or threaten harm with a knife and if used in a robbery or assault, it aggravates the offence. It is also illegal to look after, hide or transport a dangerous weapon on behalf of someone else, market a knife in a way which is likely to encourage violent behaviour, and sell a knife to a person under 18
Life-course approach	The life-course approach aims at increasing the effectiveness of interventions throughout a person's life. It focuses on a healthy start to life and targets the needs of people at critical periods throughout their lifetime. It promotes timely investments with a high rate of return for Public Health and the economy by addressing the causes, not the consequences, of ill health
Prevention: Primary	Stop violence and exploitation before it begins
Prevention: Secondary	Early detection and early intervention, recognising those people who are at risk of violence and exploitation and intervene at an early stage, with prompt and effective treatment
Prevention: Tertiary	Manage and reduce the risk for those who are already involved in violence and exploitation, to avoid crises and reduce its harmful consequences.