



Communities & Localism Select Committee Agenda

Date: Wednesday 4 October 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Membership:

S Bowles (Chairman), A Waite (Vice-Chairman), A Alam, S Barrett, P Drayton, G Hollis, M Hussain JP, M Knight, F Mahon, C Oliver, N Rana, G Smith, M Stannard and L Smith BEM

Webcasting notice

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's website. At the start of the meeting the chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the council's published policy.

Therefore, by entering the meeting room you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should ask the committee clerk, who will advise where to sit.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the monitoring officer at monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 Apologies for absence / Changes in membership		
2 Declarations of Interest		
3 Minutes		5 - 10
The minutes of the meeting held on 29 th June 2023 to be confirmed as a correct record.		

4 Public Questions

Public questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in Buckinghamshire to put a question to a Select Committee.

The Committee will hear from members of the public who have submitted questions in advance relating to items on the agenda. The Cabinet Member, relevant key partners and responsible officers will be invited to respond.

Further information on how to register can be found here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/get-involved-with-council-decisions/select-committees/>

5 Community Board Review - 12 month Update

10:10

11 - 26

Following the Committee's Community Board review which was presented to Cabinet in May 2022, Members will receive a further update on the implementation of their recommendations.

Contributors:

Cllr Arif Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities
Roger Goodes, Service Director – Partnership, Policy and Communications
Wendy Morgan-Brown, Head of Partnerships and Communities

6 CCTV - Update on development of a CCTV Strategy

10:50

27 - 42

Further to Budget Scrutiny highlighting the need for a strategic approach to further capital investment in CCTV in Buckinghamshire, the Committee will receive an update on the next steps in terms of the development of a CCTV strategy.

Contributors:

Cllr Arif Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities
Gideon Springer, Head of Community Safety

7 Serious Violence Strategy

11:40

43 - 62

The Committee will receive an overview of the Council's proposed Serious Violence Strategy before it is presented for agreement at Cabinet.

Contributors:

Cllr Arif Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities
Gideon Springer, Head of Community Safety

8 Work Programme **12:20** **63 - 64**
The Committee will discuss the work programme and note the items for the next meeting.

Contributors:

All Committee Members

9 Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 22nd November 2023 at 10am

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Kelly Sutherland
democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 01296 383602

This page is intentionally left blank



Communities & Localism Select Committee minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Communities & Localism Select Committee held on Thursday 29 June 2023 in The Paralympic Room, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 11.30 am.

Members present

S Bowles, A Waite, S Barrett, P Cooper, P Drayton, M Knight, C Oliver, M Stannard and L Smith BEM

Others in attendance

K Sutherland, R Goodes, C Harriss, A Hussain, D Jones, S Payne, J Pearce, K Dejoux, L Mangisi, H Thynne, I Malik and F Mason

Apologies

F Mahon and G Smith

Agenda Item

- 1 Apologies for absence / Changes in membership**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Frank Mahon and Greg Smith.
- 2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**
The Chairman was pleased to confirm that Cllr Ashley Waite had agreed to continue to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Communities and Localism Select Committee for the ensuing year.
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Peter Cooper declared an interest in relation to item 7 as he was Chairman of the Queens Park Arts Centre which received a grant from the Council.
- 4 Minutes**
The minutes of the meetings held on 19th April and 17th May were confirmed as a correct record.
- 5 Public Questions**
There were none.

6 Healthy Libraries

The Chairman welcomed Sophie Payne, Service Director, Culture, Sport and Leisure, David Jones, Head of Libraries, Katie DeJoux, Culture and Outreach Services Manager, Frances Mason, Public Health Principal, Lyn Mangisi, Libraries Support and Development Manager and Irzam Malik, Public Health Programme Officer to the meeting. The Chairman noted that Cllr Clive Harriss was stuck in traffic so would join the meeting shortly and invited Sophie Payne to introduce the item.

Sophie Payne reminded members that the Vision for Libraries had been discussed at a meeting earlier this year and included four key priorities – Encouraging Culture, Stronger Communities, Promoting Access and Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing. There was also a commitment to work with partners, empower staff and develop libraries as key hubs in the community. Healthy Libraries was a pilot project developed with Public Health to promote and support the Health and Wellbeing strategy, which aimed to encourage residents to ‘Start Well, Live Well, Age Well.’

Katie DeJoux, Culture and Outreach Services Manager and Frances Mason, Public Health Principal gave a presentation on the Healthy Libraries pilot and the following main points were noted:

- Libraries have 29 sites and almost 200,000 members who visit over 600,000 times in a year. For this project, they partnered with Public Health and 13 other partners, including Buckinghamshire Mind, Dementia Action Alliance, Alzheimer’s Society, The Reading Agency and Wycombe Wanderers Foundation and delivered the pilot in Buckingham, Aylesbury, Chesham, High Wycombe, Gerrards Cross, Iver Heath and Burnham libraries. Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe were chosen as they include the Opportunity Bucks wards and Buckingham and the libraries in South Bucks were included to ensure a geographical spread across the county and to ensure some representation in more rural areas.
- During the pilot, 64 events were held across the 7 libraries and 122 staff and volunteers were trained in ‘Making Every Contact Count’ from a health and wellbeing point of view. A variety of specialist events ranging from dementia action week talks, baby sleep advice sessions, NHS health checks, seed sowing workshop for children and menopause workshops were offered and blood pressure monitoring kits were also available to borrow from some libraries. 30 kits had been loaned out since May.
- 11 Cosy Corners were also set up to provide a friendly welcoming environment for residents with dementia and their carers in the library, alongside helpful information.
- Better Points is a free app that has been launched to encourage residents to make healthy choices in their lives. Anyone over 14 can use it and collect points which can be donated to charities or redeemed in local shops. When Healthy Libraries is rolled out more widely, people may also be rewarded with points for attending their health and wellbeing events.
- The full evaluation of the pilot is still ongoing but the plan is to roll this out across all libraries and hope to expand it to the prison library service as well. This summer’s reading challenge also has a sports and being active theme.

In response to members' questions and during subsequent discussions the following main points were noted:

- The Chairman asked about early lessons that had been learned from the pilot. In response, Katie DeJoux explained that some sessions were very popular so they would be organised as pre-booked events in future and libraries expect to be very busy with families over the summer due to cost of living pressures. Also engaging with partners has been invaluable as it has enabled libraries to increase their reach further into communities, attracting new visitors to the libraries.
- A member asked if the healthy libraries initiative meant that the Council was taking on duties that should be the responsibility of the NHS. In response David Jones commented that the unique selling point of libraries was that they were an accessible space for all. Healthy libraries was an opportunity for Public Health to reach out to communities and it wasn't a replacement for GPs but would complement their services. Frances Mason concurred and emphasised that it was about prevention and reaching people in the local community.
- Community libraries would be supported to run similar events. A member also noted that their local community hospital has now been rebadged as a Health and Wellbeing Centre and asked if it might also be used to support this initiative. Frances Mason explained that public health used an assets-based approach so this would likely be included. Public health data was also helpful in identifying how best to target sessions in different locations.
- There was a discussion about how people who have not been diagnosed with dementia might be encouraged through healthy libraries to seek assistance if they have been reluctant to approach a GP. It was noted that anyone can go into the library and it could offer an opportunity for someone to go 'incognito' to access resources to help them.
- A member noted that the libraries were moving into the space left by the closure of family centres in offering sessions aimed at parents, babies and pre-schoolers. He also asked how libraries would contribute to Opportunity Bucks in Micklefield and Castlefield and whether they were sufficiently resourced to support these new projects. Sophie Payne explained that Opportunity Bucks was about using existing resources to target support to the Opportunity Bucks wards and through leveraging partners.
- Members also emphasised the importance of reading and books as the central tenet of libraries whilst celebrating the success of these wider initiatives. It was noted that particularly in deprived areas, being able to borrow children's books was vital as schools didn't have the budget to renew their books regularly. David Jones welcomed members' comments and emphasised that nurturing a love of books and reading remained at the heart of the service. However, libraries could also make important contributions to other Council priorities and this helped to keep the library service relevant and sustainable.
- There was a discussion about how local members and community boards could help to promote and support Healthy Libraries. It was noted that in

Marlow and Wendover where libraries have been refurbished, the local members and community boards had been involved in discussions during the planning stages. Officers would think about how to link in with community boards more effectively.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and the officer team for their contributions to the meeting and for the display that members had been able to look at during their pre-meeting.

7 VCS Grant Overview

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Arif Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities, Roger Goodes, Service Director, Partnerships, Policy and Communications, Hannah Thynne, Head of Policy and Improvement and Jack Pearce, Senior Policy Officer to the meeting. The Cabinet Member took the Select Committee through a short presentation outlining the VCS Grant Overview and the following main points were noted:

- £2.3m grants were inherited from the five legacy councils. These, along with Community Prevention Grants totalling £350,000, have been reviewed, with a view to taking a longer term approach to grant funding which will allow VCS organisations to have more stability and be able to plan for the future more easily.
- The Shadow Executive agreed in February 2020 that a review should take place and that it would be helpful to move towards multi-year funding agreements in place of annual grants. Funding for shorter term local projects could be sought via Community Boards or other external funding opportunities.
- In February 2022 a decision was made that the second stage of the review would include the development of a single register of VCS funding across the Council and a comprehensive funding guide to local and national funding opportunities. Proposals would also be developed for the Buckinghamshire Lottery.
- In addition, services across the Council were asked to review the existing legacy grants and put forward proposals for future proposals to ensure multi-years funding opportunities which would encourage VCS activity which supports their service strategy. Consultation on these proposals would take place with local members over the Summer and the member working group would also review them ahead of a final decision.
- VCS organisations would then be notified by the end of September 2023 of any changes to their grants for the next financial year.
- Subsequently it was decided that there was limited value in producing a new funding guide as there was already a plethora of information on the Council's website and specialist support was also available from Gail Hudson, Senior Policy Officer and via Community Impact Bucks and other larger VCS organisations.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for this overview and invited members' questions. The following responses and comments during subsequent discussions

were noted:

- A member noted that the total budget under discussion was £2.6million that the legacy councils had considered valuable and he asked what the budget was for the next financial year. In response it was noted that this was not a savings exercise and the base budget available for grant funding remained the same. The review was more about focussing on a more strategic approach that would enable the Council and VCS partners to plan more readily for the medium to long term.
- A member endorsed the decision not to produce a new funding guide and felt there was more value in ensuring the efficiency of grant funding processes. He applauded the community board grants as a progressive funding model but expressed concerns that sometimes the amount of officer time expended on small grant applications seemed disproportionate.
- A member expressed concerns about the Council's ongoing support to some community centres and asked if officer support could be given to help them become financially viable instead of allowing them to rely on grant funding. Roger Goodes explained that the Council was in discussion with Aylesbury Town Council with a view to devolving the operation of several community centres to them.
- A member commented that often it was cheaper and more efficient for the VCS to provide services on the Council's behalf and questioned what might happen if a VCS organisation failed and the Council had to step in and takeover. Again it was noted that through this new funding approach, the Council wanted to provide more certainty to VCS partners although it was acknowledged that the Council's own funding could also be subject to change.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and the officer team for their contributions to the meeting and asked that the Committee should be kept updated.

8 Digital Exclusion Review Scope

The Select Committee considered and agreed the scope for a review into Digital Exclusion. The Chairman advised that Cllr Ashley Waite would chair this review and invited other members to volunteer to join the group – Cllrs Cooper, Knight, Oliver and Linda Smith agreed to take part. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Manager would arrange an initial meeting on MS Teams in July to discuss the evidence gathering approach. It was likely that the evidence gathering meetings would begin in September.

9 Work Programme

The Select Committee considered and agreed the work programme for the year ahead. The Chairman advised that the work programme would continue to evolve and if members had any topics that they wished to suggest as potential agenda items they could contact him or the Scrutiny Manager directly.

10 Date and time of the next meeting

4th October 2023 at 10am



Report to Communities & Localities Select Committee

- Date:** Wednesday, 4 October 2023
- Title:** 12 month update on the implementation of the recommendations from the Community Board review
- Author:** Wendy Morgan-Brown, Head of Partnerships & Communities
- Recommendations:** To note the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 A Communities & Localism Select Committee review on the Community Boards was undertaken in Spring 2022. The review made 11 recommendations and responses to the recommendations were made to Select Committee on 22 June 2022 with a further update on progress in January 2023. This report provides a final update.

2. Main content of report

- 2.1 Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 11 were completed before January 2023 when previously updating the Select Committee.
- 2.2 In terms of the outstanding recommendations:
- 2.3 **Recommendation 5 – A proactive communications strategy for Community Boards should be developed as a matter of urgency, to enable a ‘step change’ in community engagement, the promotion of Community Boards and the positive impacts they have had in their local area. This is now complete.**

Following development of a communications strategy, training has now been provided on social media and all Boards have seen a significant increase in followers between January – August 2023 with c1000 new followers now registered.

The strategy for increased promotion of the Boards using the ‘Humans of Buckinghamshire’ theme is underway with promotional videos to be published shortly and ongoing.

A monthly collation of Facebook posts is now posted on the corporate channels to increase awareness to a far higher number of followers.

In relation to ensuring projects funded by the Boards receive the relevant recognition, applicants now have to detail on the application form how the Board will be credited, and this is followed up to ensure it has happened or is in place when the project is evaluated. A recent evaluation for a Community Warm Hub funded by Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board identified positive outcomes including the Community Payback team using the facilities when in Waddesdon, residents using the Play & Stage child provision and 'allotmenters' donating excess fresh produce to the community store/fridge.

The Community Board has been recognised as supporting the project with the Board logo on posters and on the door notice. It is also recognised on Facebook posts and there is a poster inside the store with the logo too.

2.4 Recommendation 7 - Consideration should be given to an alternative mechanism for the delivery of local Highways schemes. This recommendation is complete.

Following the start of the new highways contract and formation of Buckinghamshire Highways, working processes between Highways and Community Boards has been established, with a 6-step process in place which considers root cause of issues raise and non-financial solutions before applying financial solutions. A highways handbook has been created for Community Boards which provides details of the process together with outline costs for the most common requested and low level solutions such a dragon's teeth, speed limit roundels.

A total of 51 schemes were awaiting progress under the new highways contact. These have now all been reviewed and proposed actions shared with the Community Boards for decisions. 36 schemes are now progressing, 8 seeking further information and 7 have been withdrawn after review by the Boards.

2.5 Recommendation 9 - An overarching plan, we suggest a three year road map, for the development of the Community Boards should be drawn up, with clearly defined milestones to enable their progress to be evaluated. This recommendation is now superseded.

The Cabinet Member is shortly to lead a review to consider the ward boundary changes due to take effect in 2025 and how these may affect the Board boundaries. The review will also consider future management arrangements and any opportunities to deliver more efficiencies in the management of the Boards. This work will inform future Board activity.

- 2.6 **Recommendation 10 - The success of each Community Board and individual projects that receive funding should be evaluated in a simple and proportionate manner. (This could be as straightforward as each CB reflecting on the priorities they set at the beginning of each year and how well the projects they have supported have delivered on those priorities at year end).** This recommendation is complete.

An evaluation form has now been introduced for all funded projects. The form is completed jointly by both the applicant and Community Board Manager, and includes the original project objectives, Board priority/priorities and details how the project has met the identified priority and project aims. It also confirms the Community Board branding/promotion undertaken. A summary of evaluation is provided to the Cabinet Member and Chairmen on a quarterly basis.

Individual Board annual reports for 2022/23 were produced which detailed their work across the year and the impact they had in their area.

The annual Community Board report for 2022/23 was presented to Council in May 2023. This report provided a summary of the work undertaken during the year including engagement work and the value this is now bringing to local communities.

- 2.7 At Appendix 1 is an updated table showing the status for all 11 recommendations.

3. Next steps and review

- 3.1 The recommendations are now complete, no further review is required.

This page is intentionally left blank



Community Boards Review – Recommendations from the C&L Select Committee review group Chairman – Cllr Steve Bowles

Response from Cabinet (June 22); update on progress (January 2023); update on progress (October 2023)

Recommendation	Cabinet’s Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
<p>1. A refreshed vision for Community Boards should be agreed and widely promoted to ensure a shared understanding for residents, key partners, elected members and council officers about the role of the Community Boards in enriching local communities.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Agree it is important to have a shared understanding of the role of Community Boards as the local face of the Council, leading local place shaping in collaboration with partners and local organisations and groups. We need to move away from the perception that they are simply grant giving bodies.</p> <p>January 2023: much change has taken place with the Boards which were the result of not just the select committee review, but also a Member Task & Finish Group and corporate service review. These changes have been brought together to provide for a refreshed vision and new ways of working. Community Boards have set their priorities for 2022/23 and projects and other activities are focused on delivering these priorities.</p> <p>Messaging has taken place with key partners on the changes to the funding criteria and for projects to deliver the agreed priorities with key VCS stakeholders and with town/parish councils (through individual Boards). Community Board Managers also explain the</p>	<p>Steve Bowles /Roger Goodes June 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	vision when working with new partners and organisations, as part of their daily work.	
<p>2. The unique skill set required to be an effective Community Board Chairman, as well as the necessary commitment in terms of energy and time, should be given due consideration when appointing Community Board Chairmen.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Community Board Chairmen play an important role and it is positive to see that the review has recognised their contribution. The appointment of Community Board Chairmen is made by the Leader, alongside other key council appointments.</p> <p>January 2023: no further action required.</p>	<p>Martin Tett June 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>
<p>3. Cabinet should ensure that there is sufficient resource and resilience in the Community Board Co-ordinator team due to the pivotal role they play in delivering the Council's localism agenda.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>The Committee will be aware that the Council has agreed to deliver a saving from the service review of the localities team in the current financial year to support the overall budget position. Whilst there is a reduction in the total number of posts however, the intention is to deliver increased resilience through streamlined processes and a new support function. Greater emphasis will also be placed on clarifying the role of the coordinators which is primarily around supporting the Community Board with local engagement and facilitating solutions, rather than direct project delivery. The service review has also identified a single point of contact for Town and Parish Councils in the service to help these organisations know who to contact in future.</p> <p>January 2023: a new structure was implemented on 1 June which saw the introduction of a new management team and a new Funding & Support team. The new structure has a dedicated Head</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes June 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>of Community Boards, two Senior Community Board Managers and a Funding & Support Team Leader. The Seniors are experienced Board managers and each continue to support a Board.</p> <p>The funding application process has now moved into the funding & support team with the Community Board Managers now only responsible for the initial discussions with the applicant and seeking Board approvals for projects. The removal of this work has allowed the Managers to refocus on their engagement work and spend more time in their Board areas working with their communities and residents.</p> <p>In terms of resilience, whilst the Managers continue to cover for each other, the funding & support team are also able to support Board Managers and cover as appropriate. Adjustment of resourcing has allowed for one part-time Board Manager role to be increased to full-time which further helps with resilience and support across the team.</p> <p>As part of the service review changes, a new revenue budget was established for the operational costs of running the Community Boards which provides for improved oversight and management of the service; this budget is separate to the £2m project budget allocated across the Boards. Taken together, these changes have delivered a more streamlined and effective structure, together with £160k savings to the support costs.</p>	
<p>4. Community Boards should be allowed full autonomy to identify and agree their own local priorities, in line with Buckinghamshire Council's priorities and to establish relevant sub-groups in order to tackle key issues in their area.</p>	<p>In part</p> <p>As an integral part of the Council, the role of Community Boards is to support Council priorities at a local level. Within that framework, however, the particular issues which they wish to focus</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes June 2022</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>on as a Board will of course reflect local need. I have recently advised Community Board Chairman that funding in 2022/23 will not be ringfenced and the use of sub-groups is entirely a matter for them to determine.</p> <p>January 2023: as covered above, at Board meetings across the summer months, priorities were discussed and agreed with Board members. Boards have the discretion to use task & finish or action groups, whichever is the best fit for the priority they are working on. Boards can work as it suits them, in some cases, Boards have a priority for each quarter they have chosen to work on whilst others have decided to work on several at the same time. Priorities continue to deliver against the corporate priorities.</p> <p>The Boards are also able to flex to consider more immediate needs in their communities such as Ukraine, Opportunity Bucks or Cost of Living.</p>	<p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>
<p>5. A proactive communications strategy for Community Boards should be developed as a matter of urgency, to enable a 'step change' in community engagement, the promotion of Community Boards and the positive impacts they have had in their local area.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A communications plan for the Community Boards will be developed, building on areas of good practice to date and ensuring that there is greater recognition of the work led by the Boards. In particular, the plan will focus on expanding opportunities for face-to-face engagement, and training will be provided as required.</p> <p>January 2023: a communications strategy has now been agreed, training and implementation will be completed by the end of January 2023.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes October 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p> <p>October 2023: this recommendation is complete</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>Going forward, communications and promotion about the purpose of the Boards and their overall aims and outcomes will be delivered by the corporate communications team.</p> <p>Individual Board activities and outcomes, social media and newsletters will be the responsibility of each Community Board Manager, supported by the corporate communications team.</p> <p>Where funding has been approved for a projects, terms and conditions now include the requirement to advertise/brand projects supported/funding by the Boards. Discussion about the promotion or branding will be discussed with the applicant when initiating the project.</p> <p>October 2023: Following development of a communications strategy, training has now been provided on social media and all Boards have seen an increase in followers.</p> <p>The strategy for increased promotion of the Boards using the 'Humans of Buckinghamshire' theme is underway with promotional videos to be published shortly and ongoing.</p> <p>A monthly collation of Facebook posts is now posted on the corporate channels to increase awareness to a far higher number of followers.</p> <p>In relation to ensuring projects funded by the Boards receive the relevant recognition, applicants now have to detail on the application form how the Board will be credited and this is followed up to ensure it has happened or is in place when the project is evaluated.</p>	
<p>6. There must be greater clarity around the Community Board funding process and improved transparency around decision making. The process should be</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes May 2022</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
<p>revised to deliver both the necessary governance and oversight and efficient processing of monies in a realistic and proportionate way.</p>	<p>A review of the funding process has been undertaken and a series of changes are being introduced to streamline decision making and provide clear guidance, for example around the expectations about contributory funding.</p> <p>January 2023: following the establishment of the new funding & support team, a review of the funding process from start to finish has been undertaken and has seen process steps and governance streamlined but continuing to meet audit and financial requirements.</p> <p>A small grants process for projects up to £1k was also introduced in October; this scheme very successfully provides for small, ground roots organisations who don't usually meet the main funding requirements, to deliver projects with the Boards.</p> <p>Targets were established for the timeliness in processing applications for Board approvals of 10 working days of a fully completed application for main project funding, and 3 working days for small grant applications. ('Processing' includes due diligence and governance checks, reports written and with Board Managers for each Board's approval process to start.)</p> <p>To-date, a total of 329 project applications have been received. 62% of applications for main project funding have been processed within 10 working days and 78% within 20 working days; 78% of small grant applications have been processed within 3 working days.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member has retained oversight of main funding projects going to the Boards for their decision through a fortnightly Funding Panel meeting which forms part of the 10 & 20 working day target.</p>	<p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>Contributory funding was a requirement introduced through the Member Task & Finish Group, very few applications do not have financial contributory funding and to-date this has generated c£743,381/87p for every £ CB spent on projects.</p>	
<p>7. Consideration should be given to an alternative mechanism for the delivery of local Highways schemes.</p>	<p>In part</p> <p>There are no plans to reduce the scope of the Community Boards to invest in a range of different highways schemes, although we will draft a protocol which identified projects more suited to funding through Community Boards, and include example projects and indicative costs to help develop proposals.</p> <p>With the new contract for Highways services coming into operation in 2023, there is an opportunity to consider changes in process in order to address the concerns identified. We will revise the protocol for the relationship between the Community Boards and the Highways service which will provide a framework for the delivery of local schemes and seek to address issues with transparency.</p> <p>January 2023: due to the change in highways contractor in April 2023 a review of the highways projects was undertaken. Some c55 PIDs had been produced but were yet to be formally considered for funding by the Boards, with a further c60 projects which had been funded and had either been started, due to start or not started and which were RAG'd for delivery under the current contract. Several projects have been able to progress to completion or to a suitable point for the new contractor to take</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/Steven Broadbent</p> <p>Richard Barker/ Roger Goodes</p> <p>September 2022 January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p> <p>October 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>forward. Several schemes remain unable to start or require repricing by the new contractor, including the unfunded PIDs. Community Boards and Highways are working closely together on the current situation and have begun to establish a suitable process for Community Board schemes.</p> <p>October 2023: Following the start of the new highways contract and formation of Buckinghamshire Highways, working processes between Highways and Community Boards has been established, with a 6-step process in place which considers root cause of issues raise and non-financial solutions before applying financial solutions. A highways handbook has been created for Community Boards which provides details of the process together with outline costs for the most common requested and low level solutions.</p>	
<p>8. Community Board Champions should be appointed in each service area of the Council, to demonstrate corporate commitment to the CBs as the local face of the Council and to act as a dedicated contact point for Community Boards Co-ordinators. In addition, guidance should be issued which sets out clear expectations for service officers in supporting Community Boards and manages expectations of the Community Boards, in terms of the resource that might be available, especially in smaller service areas.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>It would not be practical to identify single champions in each service area, due to the breadth of issues that community boards address. We do however recognise the need to improve engagement with services about the way in which they link in and support Community Boards. We will work with the key service areas to agree appropriate mechanisms for them to engage with Boards and to better manage expectations. We will also review the role of Service Directors assigned to Boards to ensure this is working positively in helping Boards and the engagement with the wider council.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes</p> <p>December 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>January 2023: a review of Service Directors on the Boards has been undertaken and realigned where requested or needed. They have also received a presentation on their role in terms of supporting their Boards.</p> <p>Presentations on the Community Boards have been made to some SLTs and staff forums. Strong relationships continue to be built between the Community Board team with the main services in the Council.</p> <p>The Service Director and Head of Service met with Chairmen and within those meetings discussed the role of the Service Directors on the Boards and support which could be provided to the Chairmen and Board Managers. They have also met with Service Directors to discuss their role on the Boards and help they could provide, particularly where matters which may need some additional attention to ensure progress.</p>	
<p>9. An overarching plan, we suggest a three year road map, for the development of the Community Boards should be drawn up, with clearly defined milestones to enable their progress to be evaluated.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Recognising the significant level of change we are experiencing both nationally and locally, we will produce a high level road map covering a three year period, with more detail for the next 12 months. We will then update this annually. This will recognise the evolving role of Community Boards and the reduced funding available.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/Roger Goodes July 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>January 2023: this work has been delayed due to a focus on actioning operational improvements.</p> <p>As part of the 2023/2024 MTFP a review of Community Boards will take place during 2023 to take account of the learning from operating the Boards over the last four years and other changes likely to affect the Boards, e.g. Boundary Review. The overarching plan will therefore be developed following this review.</p> <p>October 2023: A review is to commence shortly to consider the boundary changes due in 2025 and how these may affect the Board boundaries and consider future management arrangements and any opportunities to management costs. This work will inform future Board activity and any milestones.</p>	<p>October 2023: this recommendation is now superseded.</p>
<p>10. The success of each Community Board and individual projects that receive funding should be evaluated in a simple and proportionate manner. (This could be as straightforward as each CB reflecting on the priorities they set at the beginning of each year and how well the projects they have supported have delivered on those priorities at year end)</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Agree that it is critical to introduce a way of evaluating projects supported by the Boards linked to outcomes. We will develop a simple and proportionate approach.</p> <p>January 2023: an evaluation process has been in place since July and all projects for 2021/22 have now been issued with an evaluation form ready for when the project is complete. Bespoke evaluation conditions are now included in funding award letters as appropriate.</p> <p>An evaluation report is currently being established and will be reported to the Cabinet Member.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/Roger Goodes July 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is in progress.</p> <p>October 2023: this recommendation is now complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>October 2023: An evaluation form has now been introduced for all funded projects. The form is completed jointly by both the applicant and Community Board Manager, and includes the original project objectives, Board priority/priorities and details how the project has met the identified priority and project aims. It also confirms the Community Board branding/promotion undertaken. A summary of evaluation is provided to the Cabinet Member and Chairmen on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Individual Board annual reports for 2022/23 were produced which detailed their work across the year and the impact they had in their area.</p> <p>The annual Community Board report for 2022/23 was presented to Council in May 2023. This report provided a summary of the work undertaken during the year including engagement work and the value this is now bringing to local communities.</p>	
<p>11. A mechanism should be established to enable greater sharing of best practice ideas across Community Board areas and to consider opportunities for working in partnership across Community Board boundaries.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Agree that we should ensure there are mechanisms to improve understanding and sharing of best practice. In addition to the existing meetings of Chairmen and Coordinators, we will seek to identify further opportunities for Community Boards to have better visibility of what others are doing and consider working together on similar issues.</p>	<p>Steve Bowles/ Roger Goodes July 2022</p> <p>January 2023: this recommendation is complete.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet's Response – Y/N & comments	Lead Member/Officer & Timelines
	<p>January 2023: a knowledge library has now been established for the Community Board Managers where details are available for processes as well as sharing information.</p> <p>Team meetings regularly cover best practice and information sharing.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Chairmen's Sessions also provide for an opportunity to share ideas and projects.</p> <p>The Boards continue to work across boundaries – not just local but more widely where there are matters of similarity or interest to deliver the priorities.</p>	



CCTV in Buckinghamshire Our Strategic Approach 2023 - 2028



Background

- Buckinghamshire Council inherited several CCTV and electronic surveillance portfolios from the legacy councils. These systems cover public spaces, council buildings, facilities and include body worn video, ANPR, traffic management cameras, and covert surveillance.
- An independent review has identified that the various systems and equipment, which are between 10- 15 years old, are at the end of life in terms of operability and in need of modernisation.

CCTV Strategy 2023 - 2028

- Buckinghamshire Council is committed to helping the police in their work to prevent and detect crime and disorder in Buckinghamshire. CCTV can be a useful tool in this work and can help to reduce crime and contribute to a greater feeling of safety among residents.
- The vision of this Strategy is to achieve the best possible results from public space cameras in Buckinghamshire.
- The aim is to ensure that the CCTV network has the capability and the capacity to detect and prevent crime and disorder in areas which need it most.
- The CCTV Strategy will set out the Council's plan for running an effective public space overt camera surveillance service. The Council will lead on the Strategy, but to be successful it will need to continue to work closely with Thames Valley Police and other partners to deliver its aims over the next three years.

Aims and Principles

Our aims for CCTV in Buckinghamshire are to:

- ✓ enhance public safety by preventing and reducing crime, public disorder and anti-social behaviour, and violence against women and girls
- ✓ improve the quality of life in our town centres
- ✓ improve the safety of our car parks
- ✓ improve traffic management
- ✓ support the Council's civil enforcement and regulatory functions
- ✓ help the police track people suspected of committing crime; provide evidence to assist in criminal proceedings
- ✓ Support staff safety and protect the Council's buildings

Aims and Principles

Our approach to CCTV is underpinned by six key principles that will guide the implementation of this strategy and measure its success:

- 1) The Council's public space CCTV network should be used solely for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime and disorder.
- 2) The Council is supportive of appropriate CCTV investment. All Council investment should focus on locations that experience the highest volumes of crime and disorder.
- 3) The Council should invest in deployable or temporary cameras to allow for flexibility in responding to changing and emerging crime patterns.
- 4) The Council should outline a plan for continued investment in CCTV, including a policy on business and resident group private investment.
- 5) The Council will aim to ensure that its CCTV resources across its directorates are coordinated and joined up.
- 6) The CCTV system should have regular performance reviews to ensure it is as effective as possible.

The Role of Local Government in CCTV

- According to the College of Policing, there is a 13% crime reduction and a 20% reduction in drug related crime in places with CCTV.
- For 2022, the Buckinghamshire Council CCTV control room was directly involved in the arrests of over 200 individuals and dealt with nearly 20 thousand incidents of a public safety nature.
- The majority of public space CCTV is owned, monitored, and managed by local authorities.
- Between 1994 and 2003, Home Office funding was made available to local authorities via challenge funding and the crime reduction programme. As a consequence, local authorities have procured different systems at different times and with a range of different specifications, leading to a mix of schemes across the country.
- Given that most were installed around 20 years ago, many councils are currently experiencing the need to upgrade to modern digital platforms and different approaches are emerging.

CCTV Strategy Governance

- A CCTV Advisory Group will be established to monitor all CCTV development work and performance.
- This group will include members from across the County, police and other stakeholders, and will be led by the Cabinet Member for Communities (Cllr Arif Hussain).
- The work of this group will ensure complete transparency on the installation and use of overt CCTV by Buckinghamshire Council.
- The Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board is the multi-agency strategic body accountable for the response to crime and community safety issues in Buckinghamshire.
- Overt CCTV camera surveillance is one of the approaches that has proven to be effective at tackling crime and disorder and is supported by the Community Safety Plan. The Council holds a primary role in the Safer Buckinghamshire Board as it has responsibility and ownership of the public space camera network in the County.
- Thames Valley Police and the police and Crime Commissioner fully support the upgrade of the public space CCTV system in Buckinghamshire.

CCTV in Buckinghamshire

- Buckinghamshire Council currently hosts over 500 public and non-public space electronic surveillance cameras operated by 11 different service areas. This includes 222 CCTV cameras covering public spaces and car parks.
- The Council has a control room in High Wycombe monitoring cameras in the south of the county. In addition, we have separate control rooms monitoring cameras for our buildings and for traffic management.
- All the public space cameras are recorded 7 days a week, all year round, and they are proactively monitored by CCTV Operators between the hours of 8am and 4am on Fridays and Saturdays and between 8 am and 11pm The remainder of the week.
- The CCTV control room is connected to police by radio so that incidents can have a coordinated live response between police officers and the CCTV cameras.

CCTV in Buckinghamshire – Public Space CCTV

- Public Space cameras fall into two categories: fixed and temporary location cameras.
- Fixed CCTV cameras are installed in response to long term problems that are unlikely change. They can also be installed on routes to and from those areas, to pursue criminals after they have committed offences.
- They are also installed to support traffic management across the county.
- Public space CCTV is most effective at tackling crimes that occur on the street in the vicinity of the camera but can also be helpful for police investigations for many types of crime. Town centre systems have proved to be the most cost effective and efficient.
- In order to ensure that the Council's cameras are in the locations with the greatest need and will benefit from proactive monitoring during the control room hours a model of crime analysis has been developed.
- The Council will adopt this approach for all future fixed camera installations.

CCTV in Buckinghamshire – Public Space CCTV

- This model considers the crime location from long term trends (3 years). Secondly locations that have highest volume of high harm offences are considered. High harm offences are those which cause physical injury or threat of violence towards an individual such as Violence with Injury, Sexual offences and Burglary.
- To ensure that all new fixed cameras can mitigate displacement and are flexible, consideration should be undertaken to install one or more deployable cameras as part of the design for each new location. This will support the system to be adaptable and flexible in response to crime and antisocial behaviour. Each site would benefit from the same number of cameras, but one or more will have the added benefit of deployable technology, allowing their relocation to address any change to the crime and ASB profile.
- Temporary or deployable CCTV cameras can be a useful tool to help the police and the Council deal with problems they expect to be resolved as part of a local problem-solving process. They can also be used when there is a concern of displacement of crime or antisocial behaviour and allow proactive monitoring to understand the local crime pattern.

Future developments

- As of 1/10/2023, we are establishing a single control room at Wycombe. This will initially cover public space CCTV, but over time there will be the ability to absorb the monitoring of other council CCTV.
- A combined control room may provide the Council with the opportunity to consider other services such as intruder alerts, responding to lone worker alarms, fire and panic alarms. Like the existing CCTV control room for public space cameras a combined service with access to highways cameras could also have direct radio communication between Police and Council Officers with an enforcement role. The Council will benchmark the existing CCTV services with other councils to consider ways in which camera technology can be used to improve safety of residents across Buckinghamshire.

A Proportionate and Ethical Approach

The legitimate aims of the public space CCTV system for processing data are:

- To help prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Supporting emergency services respond to a serious incident including in the interests of national security/terrorism
- To help reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To provide evidential material for Police and the Court proceedings for the prosecution of offenders.
- To aid in the overall management of safety within covered areas and improve community safety.

A Proportionate and Ethical Approach

The Council is compliant with the Surveillance Commissioner's codes of practice and has completed the best practice self-assessment tool. The Council completes the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Data Protection Impact Assessment Template, which is recommended to be completed when:

- cameras are added or removed from systems
- cameras are moved or change position
- whole or parts of systems are upgraded
- new systems are installed

Measuring Success

The Council will measure its success of delivering our CCTV at delivering our six commitments:

Core Principles of CCTV Strategy		What will the Council do	How will the Council measure outcomes?
1	The Council's public space CCTV network should be used solely for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime and disorder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assurance of control room management. Intelligence led proactive monitoring. Collaboration of enforcement services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveillance Commissioner's Self-assessment tool annual review. Audit of incident logs. Data Protection Privacy Impact Assessment annual review.
2	The Council is supportive of appropriate CCTV investment. All Council investment should focus on locations that experience the highest volumes of crime and disorder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Planning (NCIL, section 106), Capital Programme Board and Highways colleagues for investment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of successful new investment from Council sources (NCIL, Capital projects and Council budgets).
3	The Council should invest in deployable or temporary cameras to allow for flexibility in responding to changing and emerging crime patterns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployable cameras are used in the areas with highest need through regular engagement with police neighbourhood teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of locations that have had temporary CCTV cameras. The effectiveness of CCTV temporary cameras evaluated by arrests made and use of data images to investigate and prosecute perpetrators.

Measuring Success

Core Principles of CCTV Strategy		What will the Council do	How will the Council measure outcomes?
4	The Council should outline a plan for continued investment in CCTV, including a policy on business and resident group private investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Toolkit for private investment in CCTV. Agree a local policy for Housing associations, <u>businesses</u> or residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of successful new investment from external sources.
5	The Council will aim to ensure that its CCTV resources across its directorates are coordinated and joined up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Project Board will review how the public space and <u>Facilities</u> Management Systems operate and agree joint protocols for the separate systems. It will also conduct a technical review to assess the feasibility of providing a single camera network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During first year of the Strategy complete a review of the current CCTV Control Room operating hours and management arrangements. This review will examine other operating models to ensure the quality and cost of the system is the best option for resident, with recommendations to be implemented by year two. Efficiency savings in administration of different systems across council?
6	The CCTV system should have regular performance reviews to ensure it is as effective as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular reporting to CCTV Advisory Group and Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness of individual cameras and whole system. Performance management of maintenance contract.

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to Communities and Localism Select Committee

Date: 4th October 2023

Title: Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-26

Contact officer: Gideon Springer

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 In line with the statutory requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, the Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-26 has been produced.
- 1.2 The Strategy outlines five priorities and a multi-agency Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Plan will be produced to support the delivery of the priorities over the next three years.

2. Background

- 2.1 Within Buckinghamshire we have adopted the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Partnership definition of serious violence:

“Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.”
- 2.2 Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty on a range of specified authorities. The aim of the Duty is to ensure relevant services work together to share information and allow them to target their interventions, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.
- 2.3 The Duty covers the requirements set out in Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. It requires specified authorities for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes

of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area.

- 2.4 The Serious Violence Duty also set out a requirement that a Serious Violence Needs Assessment (SVNA) be completed. The SVNA is a comprehensive evidence-based data analysis conducted by Buckinghamshire Council to provide valuable insights to support the development of strategies and activities to address Serious Violence issues.
- 2.5 This SVNA will also indicate key factors of likely causes and trends of serious violence across the Buckinghamshire area.

3. Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-26

- 3.1 Taking the early indications from the Strategic Assessment, feedback from partners and Councillors and other known insights into account, the Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-26 has been produced in line with the Government's Serious Violence Duty guidance.
- 3.2 The Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-26 priorities are:
 - **Priority 1** – Raises awareness of serious violence through communication, education and training.
 - **Priority 2** – Support early intervention for vulnerable young people and those becoming at risk.
 - **Priority 3** – Develop awareness of, and embed, the Serious Violence Agenda, and Duty requirements amongst the partnership.
 - **Priority 4** – Enhance appropriate support for those who are released from custody who are most risk of reoffending.
 - **Priority 5** – Undertake a proactive partnership response to cohorts and locations vulnerable to serious violence.

4. Delivery Plans

- 4.1 A multi-agency Serious Violence Reduction delivery plan will be produced to tackle these priorities, setting out clear measures so that we can track the impact and outcome of our actions. The plan will seek to tackle each of the priorities by taking a whole-system public health approach to address the underlying factors that will be drawn out of the SVNA in order to provide the maximum benefit to help keep safer our local communities.
- 4.2 The delivery plan will be overseen by the multi-agency Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Group, with updates going to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board on a quarterly basis.

5. Legal and financial implications

- 5.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 sets out the Serious Violence Duty for specified authorities which includes the requirement to produce and implement a Serious Violence Strategy.
- 5.2 The Government has also announced an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that Serious Violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships and ensure they have a Serious Violence Strategy in place.
- 5.3 Tackling serious violence is one of the priorities within the Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Strategy, and the Safer Buckinghamshire Board will oversee the implementation of the Serious Violence Strategy and Delivery Plan.
- 5.4 At present, all Community Safety Partnerships receive a Community Safety Grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) which is to be used to fund projects which will assist with the delivery of the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy. The Safer Buckinghamshire Board, in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), manage the Community Safety Grant. The Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Group can apply for funding from this grant to support the implementation of the Serious Violence Response Strategy.
- 5.5 If the decision was made by the PCC that the funding for the Community Safety Partnership was to be reduced, or managed differently by the OPCC, this could impact on the delivery of the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 and therefore the Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-26 and Delivery Plan.
- 5.6 Projects can be delivered within the existing funding received and expected in budgetary terms. However, there are continued resource constraints on both the Council and our community safety partners which could see an impact on our delivery.

6. Corporate implications

- 6.1 The Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-26 and the implementation of the Delivery Plan will contribute towards the Buckinghamshire Council Corporate Plan through the following key priorities:
 - Strengthening our communities
 - Protecting the vulnerable

7. Local councillors and community boards

- 7.1 Two Members Briefing Sessions took place in July. Any feedback received has been included in the Strategy or will be reflected in the Delivery Plan.

8. Communication, engagement and further consultation

8.1 As set out in the Serious Violence Duty, the below statutory agencies were consulted via face-to-face discussions as well as a survey and their views regarding the 2023-26 priorities were incorporated into this Strategy:

- Thames Valley Police
- Education
- National Probation Service
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
- Local Prisons
- Youth Offending Service
- Public Health

8.2 The responses obtained have assisted in ensuring our priorities align with their organisation and will assist in creating the Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Plan to ensure the 2023-26 Serious Violence priorities are delivered effectively.

9. Next steps and review

9.1 The Serious Violence Strategy will be discussed at Cabinet in December 2023.

9.2 In line with the Government's Serious Violence Duty guidance, the Serious Violence Response Strategy will be submitted to the Home Office by 31st January 2024.

9.3 The Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Group will produce a detailed Delivery Plan which tackles the 2023-2026 priorities.

9.4 The Annual report on the work of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board will be produced in February/March 2024.

10. Background papers

Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023

Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26

Buckinghamshire Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-2026

Contents

Foreword

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the victims, their families, the community, and County as a whole. It instils fear, affects wellbeing, and comes at a financial cost. Adverse childhood experiences including Traumatic experiences in childhood can have a lasting effect and cause vulnerability later in life to serious violence issues. Nationally, incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014.

Within Buckinghamshire we are committed to stopping serious violence before it begins and reducing the impact and the number of people affected by serious violence issues. Tackling the drivers of serious violence requires a combined effort with our partners and our communities. We need to properly understand the issues and address risk factors that increase the likelihood of somebody becoming an offender or victim. Prevention is central to our approach.

This strategy and the delivery plan that will support it focus on the importance of early intervention in order to provide young people with the skills to lead productive lives free from violence. Buckinghamshire Council is determined to end the misery serious violence can cause. We will work with our partners to achieve sustainable reductions in serious violence and improve the health and quality of life of those who live, work, and visit Buckinghamshire.

Cllr Arif Hussain
Cabinet Member for Communities

Craig McArdle
Corporate Director – Adults and Health
Buckinghamshire Council

Introduction

We are pleased to introduce the Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-2026 which sets out our priorities for the next 3 years with the goal of reducing and preventing serious violence. The priorities within this Strategy have been informed by an in-depth analysis of data from a range of Buckinghamshire partner organisations.

Our 2023-2026 priorities are:

- Awareness raising of serious violence.
- Early intervention.
- Awareness raising of the serious violence agenda and Duty.
- Supporting those released from Custody.

DRAFT STRATEGY

- Partnership response to those most vulnerable to serious violence.

To achieve these goals, we will work in partnership with our statutory and voluntary/community partners, along with engaging with the local community.

What is Serious Violence?

Within Buckinghamshire we have adopted the definition of serious violence as agreed by Community Safety Managers across the Thames Valley:

“Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.”

Whilst Domestic Abuse related offences account for a large proportion of serious violence offences, they are not dealt with under this strategy. There is a separate Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24, which delivers the Council’s statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

National context

Serious violence is a national priority due to its growing prevalence and impact. The Office of National Statistics report, based on the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) which looked at the nature of violent crime (year ending March 2022), provided the following overview of the extent of violent crime:

- The TCSEW estimated that 1.9% of adults aged 18 years and over were a victim of violent crime in the year ending March 2022, equating to 1.5 million incidents of violence.
- The police recorded 2.1 million instances of violence against the person offences in the year ending March 2022, an increase of 18% from 1.8 million in the year ending March 2021.
- Police recorded crime showed that the number of homicides in the year ending March 2022 increased by 25% to 709 offences compared with the year ending March 2021.
- There was also a 10% increase in the number of police recorded offences involving knife-enabled crime in the year ending March 2022 (48,931 offences) compared with the year ending March 2021; this remains lower than the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 (55,076 offences).
- There was no change in the number of hospital admissions for assault with sharp objects in the year ending March 2022 (4,118 admissions) compared with the year ending March 2021 (4,112 admissions); this remains lower than the year ending March 2020 (4,769 admissions).

Government’s Serious Violence Strategy 2018

This Strategy set out the need for pairing effective law enforcement with a need for early intervention/diversionary support for those most vulnerable to being drawn into violence, drugs, and exploitation. It describes the need to identify and address the root cause of violence, especially in young people. The Strategy encourages a whole-system, public health approach; ensuring that both statutory and community/voluntary partners work collaboratively and closely with the community.

The Serious Violence Duty

To assist in reducing and preventing serious violence in 2019 the Government announced legislation which introduced a new Serious Violence Duty. This Duty gave responsibility to a range of specified authorities

to work together to share information/data and target interventions to reduce and prevent serious violence within their communities.

The Duty requires the following specified authorities to adopt a public health approach and work collaboratively to reduce and prevent serious violence:

- Police
- Justice
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authority

Other agencies, such as Education, Prisons and Probation also need to be consulted to ensure a full partnership approach.

The Government also announced an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships and ensure they have a Serious Violence Strategy in place.

The Serious Violence Duty also requires a Strategic Needs Assessment to be completed to understand crime trends in the area and identify cohorts most vulnerable to serious violence.

Violence Reduction Units

In 2019 the Home Office established 20 Violence Reduction Units (VRU) across the areas with the highest levels of serious violence, one of which was the Thames Valley. The VRU assists in strategic leadership, coordination of work, delivery, and evaluation of local interventions and to support the building of capacity and future sustainability.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Serious Violence Duty also created a responsibility for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to have oversight of local partner's readiness and adherence to the Duty. Within the Thames Valley, the Violence Reduction Unit will be managed by the OPCC who will work with partners to develop a regional Strategic Needs Assessment for 2023–2024 and a Thames Valley Serious Violence Strategy. The OPCC also manages a grant to support local partners in response to the new burden created by the Serious Violence Duty.

What have we done in the last 3 years

In line with the Government's Serious Violence Strategy, the themes of the previous Buckinghamshire Serious Violence Strategy were:

- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Supporting Communities
- Effective Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Response

Over the past 3 years significant work has been undertaken on these three themes. This has been achieved through collaborative and co-production work with statutory, community and voluntary partners,

DRAFT STRATEGY

supporting the delivery of projects along with supporting young people who require diversion away from serious violence and organised crime.

During the last 3 years we have:

- Created and recruited a Serious Violence Reduction Coordinator to assist in ensuring that the local authority and statutory partners (Police, Justice, Fire and Rescue and Health) are aware of the Serious Violence Duty and their responsibilities. This role was initially funded by the Violence Reduction Unit, but it has now become a mainstream role within the Community Safety Officer role to support the coordination and implementation of the new Duty.
- Established a Serious Violence Task Force to oversee the delivery of the Buckinghamshire Violence Reduction Plan. This Task Force provides operational oversight which meets quarterly to discuss progress and any blockages to delivering the plan.
- Supported the VRU pilot project 'Hospital Navigator Scheme'. This project was launched in Stoke Mandeville Hospital and placed a Navigator within A&E to contact any patient who attended and looked to be either a perpetrator or victim of serious violence. The Navigator worker would discuss whether they required further support and signpost them to appropriate agencies where required. This scheme has now recruited several volunteers to support delivery of this scheme who now also link in with the Ambulance service. BC has regular contact with the organisation (7Roadlight) who run the navigator scheme, available data covering the period from July 2022 to May 2023 shows that 195 persons received intervention conversation support.
- Promoted VRU funded projects 'New Leaf Mentoring Scheme' and identified and funded other third sector intervention providers, recommending them to professionals working with young people who are at risk of school exclusion and/or involved in the criminal justice system or vulnerable to exploitation.
- Supported the VRU funded project 'Intensive Engagement' where they collaborated to deliver an 8 step 'Community Engagement and Problem Solving' model within the Castlefield area of High Wycombe. This involved identifying and engaging with local strategic partners to develop and deliver a local community problem solving partnership between the police, local authority and the local community focusing on reducing serious violence.
- Collaborated and co-produced with the VRU Thames Valley Together Data Project.
- Created a 'Menu' of Intervention Providers and Diversionary activities across Buckinghamshire to assist with diverting young people away from serious violence. This Menu has been integrated into the Buckinghamshire Information Service web page and can be accessed by the Professionals and the public for example is utilised at the weekly MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meeting to discuss children at risk of going missing or being exploited.
- Organised and held regular training with Social Care and the Police around the Serious Violence Duty and on the information sharing process with the Police and partner agencies.
- Organised and held training with Social Prescribers and GPs around the Serious Violence Duty and how they can support the serious violence agenda.
- Provided 2022-2024 period over £200,000 of Community Safety funding in collaboration with 'Heart of Bucks' a third sector funding specialist to Community Intervention and Diversionary activity providers to support community safety initiatives.

DRAFT STRATEGY

- Utilised social media platforms and included articles within the Community Safety newsletter in relation to serious violence issues and violence against women and girls.
- Supported Thames Valley Police and Trading Standards in Operational issues, for example Crime reduction initiatives, Park sweeps, knife amnesty bins, location-based problem-solving serious violence issues and community reassurance.
- Worked with key partner agencies, YOS, NHS, VRU and third sector organisations to safeguard and support young people and adults vulnerable to or involved in serious violence issues

Thames Valley Together (TVT) data project

The TVT project is an innovative piece of work spearheaded by the Thames Valley Police VRU and is fully supported by Buckinghamshire Council. The aim of this project is to utilise data to understand the threat, risk and harm issues at a location, population, and individual personal level within the Buckinghamshire area. This project is currently within the test phase and is pulling together data from a variety of multi-agency sources including Children and Adult Services, Education, Helping Hands, Revenues and Benefits, Youth Offending Service, Northgate Council Tax, Housing, Community Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, TV Police. The operational system for end users is expected to go live at some point in 2024 and will provide various analytical products, risk stratification and risk identification, impact, and outcome evaluation, along with assistance with planning for demand and location based 'hot spots' information.

It is also recognised that across our Partnerships, connectivity and collating relevant meaningful data can be a challenge. We will prioritise improving efficiency and processes to enhance the value of utilising shared data.

Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

The Serious Violence Duty set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 includes a requirement for local partnerships to complete a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to understand how violence is affecting their communities and to help them develop a response strategy.

The Buckinghamshire serious violence SNA has a specific focus on violence-related needs within a local area. Through detailed analysis the SNA has assisted with identifying trends and cohorts/locations most vulnerable to serious violence in order to shape and support the development of this strategy, along with the delivery plan.

The data used in the serious violence SNA has been provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) covers the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2023 and is taken from the Thames Valley Police crime recording system.

Buckinghamshire has lower crime rates than England and the South East across all crime types, however, violence and sexual offences crime rates are increasing nationally, and this increase is also reflected in Buckinghamshire.

In 2022-23, the violence with injury crime rate (number of crimes per 1000 population) in Buckinghamshire (6.0) was lower than Thames Valley (7.1), the South East (8.5) and England (9.6). Violent crime and violence with injury are high-level crime types, some offences of which will be considered serious violence; serious violence is a subset of the wider crime types of violence against the person, sexual offences, and drug offences.

DRAFT STRATEGY

In line with the definition of the Serious Violence Definition from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, the serious violence needs assessment looks at all data from Groups 1 and 2, as detailed below:

Group 1

- All homicide
- All grievous bodily harm
- All knife crime (as collected for Home Office recording) inclusive of all ages, location type (public / private) and domestic abuse.

Group 2

- All actual bodily harm (thus excluding 'other' violence with injury e.g common assault)
- All drug supply / trafficking (thus excluding possession alone)
- All sexual assault (thus excluding sexual activity and 'other' sexual offences)
- All rape

Please note that Group 1 will include crime types from Group 2 if a knife is involved (except for drug supply offences).

Summary of SNA fundings

Serious violence in Buckinghamshire has broadly remained the same over the last 5 years, except for a notable drop in 2020/21, which can be attributed to Covid restrictions, and has relatively low levels of crime when compared to neighbouring areas within Thames Valley, the South East and England.

↓ There were 1,676 **Group 1** serious violence crimes in Buckinghamshire during the 5-year period 2018-2023 – occurrences have fallen 24% during this time.

↑ The highest volume **Group 1** serious violence crimes between 2018-2023 were:

- Grievous Bodily Harm (37% - 624 offences)
- Actual Bodily Harm (30% - 495 offences)
- Robbery (24% - 398 offences)

↓ Robbery had the biggest 5-year change – down 49% between 2018-2023

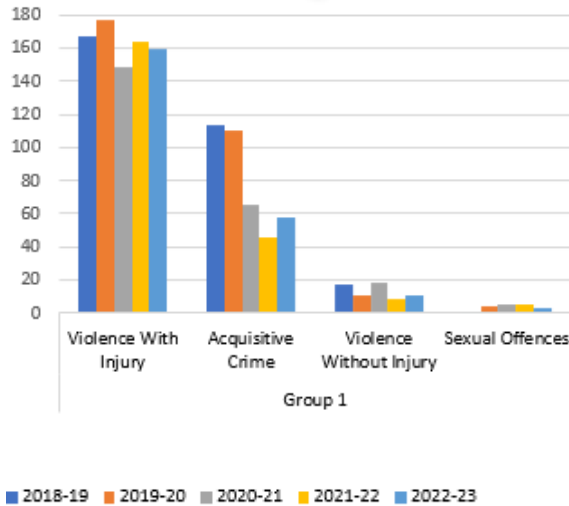
↔ 74% of group 1 serious violence crimes involved a knife – this proportion has remained relatively unchanged over the last 5 years.

↑ There were 17,629 Group 2 serious violence crimes in Buckinghamshire during the 5-year period 2018-2023 – occurrences have increased 8% during this time.

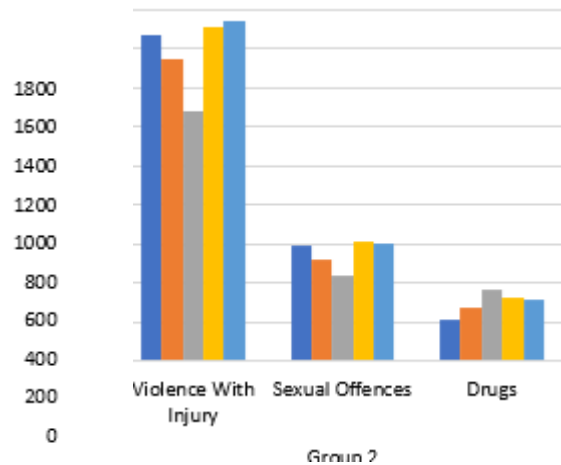
↑ 70% (12,365) of Group 2 serious violence crimes between 2018-2023 2343 Actual Bodily Harm

↑ Drug Supply offences had the biggest 5-year change – increasing 44% between 2018-2023

DRAFT STRATEGY



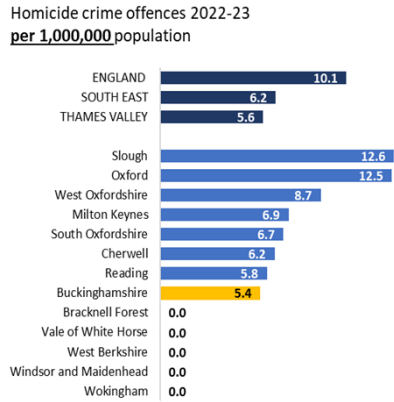
- ↔
 Serious violence crimes in group 1 remain broadly unchanged in terms of volume, although, unlike domestic abuse there is a clear impact of Covid, where the pandemic restrictions reduced the volume of crime (in line with national trends) with the exception of drug supply offences.
- ↓
 Acquisitive crime in group 1 consists solely of robbery involving a knife. This volume has fallen significantly, initially in response to Covid but the volume has not returned post-restrictions.
- ↔
 Violence without injury (consisting solely of 'threats to kill') and sexual offences in group 1 have seen minor fluctuations, but these equate to no-change overall.



- ↑
 Serious violence crimes in group 2 are far higher in volume than group 1. There has been a slight increase in the volume of violence with injury offences, although not sufficient to impact the overall crime rate. The increases are not evenly spread geographically with some areas seeing notable increases.
- ↔
 Sexual offences have remained at a similar level.
- ↑
 Drug supply offences increased significantly during Covid, partly due to perpetrators being very evident during lockdown periods, and partly due to additional Police focus.

Homicide

- In Buckinghamshire there were 12 homicides between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2023. Of these, 5 offences involved a knife (42%), and 2 offences were domestic abuse related homicides (1 involved a knife).
- In the last three years, the rate of homicide in England and Wales has been highest in London, with an average of 15.1 offences per million population a year, followed by the West Midlands. Rates are lowest in the South East and South West of England.
- The chart below shows the homicide rates per 1,000,000 population for areas within the Thames Valley for the 2022-23 financial year. Five areas did not have recorded homicide offences in the period (and therefore have a crime rate of 0.0), of the remaining eight areas, Buckinghamshire had the lowest homicide rate.



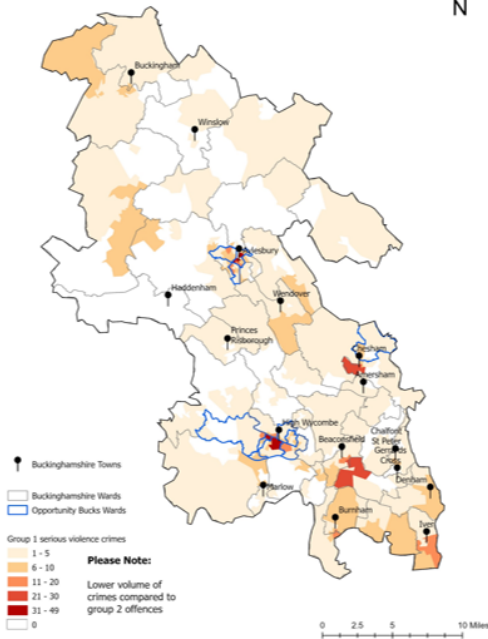
Please note: for homicide, a rate per million population is used due to the low number of offences.

Sexual Offences

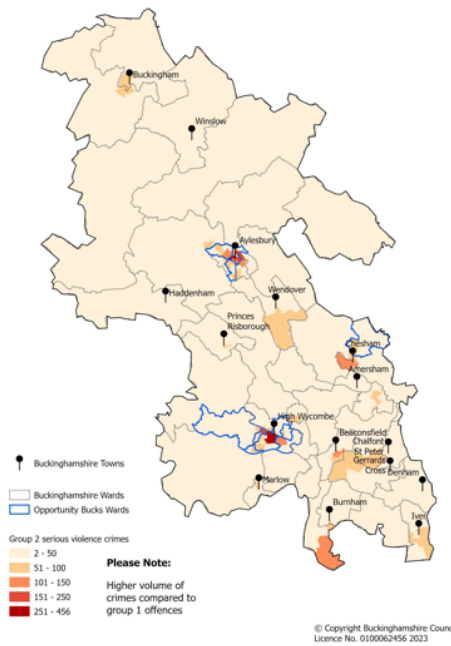
- Buckinghamshire has a relatively low crime rate of reported sexual offences when compared to neighbouring areas within the Thames Valley. However, our reported sexual offences are increasing.
- The Office of National Statistics reports the volume of sexual offences recorded by the police has been increasing over the last decade. However, the impact of high-profile incidents, media coverage, and campaigns is likely to increase people's willingness to report both recent and historical offences to the police. It is therefore possible that some of the increase in volume of offences reflects an increase in reporting. (Recent data published by Rape Crisis of England and Wales shows the reporting of offences remains low '5 in 6 women who are raped don't report – and the same is true for 4 in 5 men').
- Looking at sexual offences that fall within serious violence (a subset of all sexual offences), 2,783 sexual offences (excluding domestic abuse) were reported between 2018 and 2023.
- Of the sexual offences that occurred within our 5-year reporting period there has been a 43% increase in reported rape offences and a 36% increase in reported sexual assaults. Whilst this could be seen as a worrying trend, due to previous low reporting of sexual offences this increase may indicate an increase in confidence to report an incident.

Where is serious violence happening

Group 1 Serious Violence; distribution of crimes between 2018 and 2023



Group 2 Serious Violence; distribution of crimes between 2018 and 2023



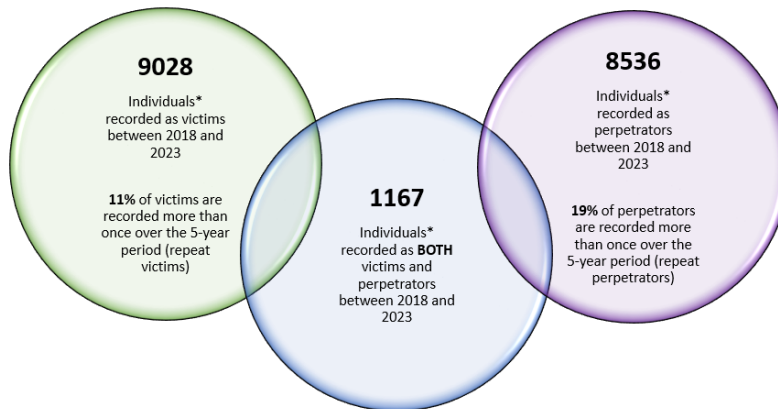
These two maps show where group 1 crimes and group 2 crimes have occurred over the last 5 years.

The areas with the highest levels of group 1 serious violence offences are consistent with those areas with the highest levels of group 2 serious violence offences, suggesting the two groups are simply an extension of each other rather than distinctly different issues.

The highest numbers of crimes are around the town centres and are often located in Buckinghamshire's more deprived wards. The numbers are too small to present as crime rates, so the map represents actual numbers of crimes, it is therefore important to recognise that the more populated areas will have higher numbers of offences.

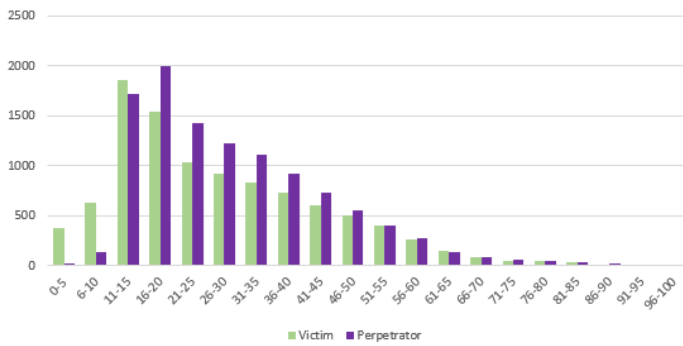
Please note:
When considering these maps, the group 1 scale (in terms of shading) relates to a much smaller volume of offences.

What do we know about those involved in serious violence?

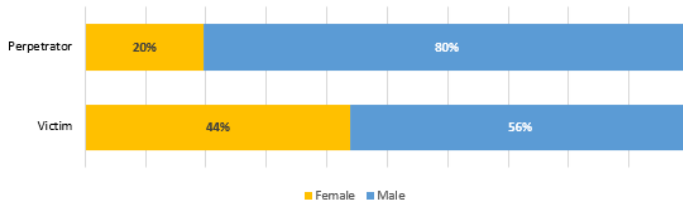


DRAFT STRATEGY

Age profile of all victims and perpetrators involved in serious violence in Buckinghamshire 2018-2023



Victim and perpetrator split by gender, where known, in Buckinghamshire 2018-23



The highest volume of serious violence crimes are committed by and against 11-25 year olds. **44%** of victims and **47%** of suspects are in this age range. This has remained unchanged during the 5-year period.



The 11-15 age group has the highest number of victims (**18%** of all victims), whereas the 16-20 age group has the highest number of perpetrators (**18%** of all perpetrators).



Males make up more than half the victims of serious violent crime, and account for **80%** of the suspected perpetrators.



Age group 11–15 years has the highest number of female perpetrators, age group 16–20 years has the highest number of male perpetrators



Females make up **19.5%** of all perpetrators and make up **24%** of the 11-15 years perpetrator age group. Violence with injury offences have the highest proportion of female perpetrators (**26%**)



There has been little change over the 5-year period in either the age or gender of perpetrators



There is insufficient data to comment on the ethnicity of serious violence perpetrators



92% of knife crime perpetrators are male



Age groups between 11-20 years have the highest number of male and female victims.



Females make up **44%** of all victims and account for more than **50%** of victims aged 15 and under. **85%** of sexual offence victims are female.



There has been little change over the 5-year period in either the age or gender of victims.



There is insufficient data to comment on the ethnicity of serious violence victims.



81% of knife crime victims are male.

Aims and Priorities

Our aim is to prevent and reduce serious violence across Buckinghamshire. We will achieve this by tackling the drivers of serious violence, assessing data, delivering training, sourcing, and funding early intervention work, working collaboratively with partner agencies and evaluating the impact of our work to ensure resources are being used most effectively.

Consultation

As set out in the Serious Violence Duty, the below statutory agencies were consulted via face-to-face discussions as well as a survey:

- Thames Valley Police
- Education
- National Probation Service
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
- Local Prisons
- Youth Offending Service
- Public Health

The responses obtained have assisted in ensuring our priorities align with their organisation and will assist in creating a serious violence reduction delivery plan to ensure the 2023-26 Serious Violence priorities are delivered effectively.

Youth Voice

Along with obtaining the views of key partners organisations, it is important to also include the views of the young people we are aiming to work with and to also support and encourage the development and creation by young people of a counter narrative to serious violence issues.

Assisting with the national youth view around serious violence; causes and prevention, the VRU and Crest Advisory (commissioned by the Youth Endowment fund) both published research on the subject.

Both papers found similar insights around the causes and prevention of serious violence which were:

Causes:

A need to belong, to be understood and to be someone.

- Money needs to be made.
- Violence often comes as a package with drugs and gangs due to rivalries, disputes, debts.
- Gangs can appear to provide security and connections and can be joined because of issues at home, family break downs, insecure housing and having parents with mental health difficulties.
- Knife carrying is seen as a form of a protective response due to feeling unsafe.
- Knife carrying is sometimes accepted as commonplace behaviour amongst a peer group.

Prevention:

- Having a structured/stable space to be (physically) and a space to belong (emotionally) to assist in building a positive self-image.
- Having someone who can be trusted and who understands (healthy relationships, support services, community ties, positive role models)
- Having the chance to learn and achieve something (education/employment)
- Mechanisms to understand how to self-regulate emotions and communicate effectively.

Assisting with the local youth view around the causes and prevention of serious violence, we utilised the Bucks Youth Summit which pulled together students of various ages and from various schools across the area to facilitate discussions around violence issues.

Views around causes of serious violence mirrored those found nationally with the addition of the below:

- External environment - geographical area, external influences, school, attitude towards others.
- Trauma - lived experience, death, bullies, isolation, mental health, experience of hate crime.
- Substances.
- Money - lack of, options to access, greed, cost of living, attitude towards how to make it.
- Social media - pressure of maintaining an online life in real life.
- Peer pressure and fitting in - trends, influence of others, imitation, social skills, reputation.
- Gratification and getting away with it - adrenaline, reward greater than risk, small punishment, no consequences.

Views around prevention of serious violence mirrored those found nationally with the addition of the below:

- Investing in services
- Developing reporting systems
- Improving police relations
- Investing in crime prevention infrastructure and systems
- Clarifying and developing consequences
- Early intervention

Buckinghamshire Council recognises the importance of listening to youth voices and developing a counter-narrative around serious violence through relevant projects.

DRAFT STRATEGY

Our Serious Violence priorities over the next three years:

Through the analysis of the Strategic Needs Assessment and the consultation findings, the following priorities have been agreed:

Priority 1 – Raise awareness of serious violence through communication, education, and training.

Priority 2 – Support early intervention for vulnerable young people and those becoming at risk.

Priority 3 – Develop awareness of, and embed, the Serious Violence Agenda, and Duty requirements amongst the partnership.

Priority 4 – Enhance appropriate support for those who are released from custody who are at the most risk of reoffending.

Priority 5 – Undertake a proactive partnership response to cohorts and locations vulnerable to serious violence.

Serious Violence Delivery Plan

A multi-agency delivery plan will be produced to tackle these priorities, setting out clear measures so that we can track the impact of our actions.

The plan will seek to tackle each of the priorities by taking a public health approach and addressing the underlying factors to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. Activity will be focused on early intervention and serious violence location based ‘hotspots’ problem solving, whilst ensuring we minimise the fear of crime and increase public confidence.

The drivers and communities affected by serious violence are far reaching and features as a priority across other service and partnership strategies within Buckinghamshire. The landscape to tackling the drivers as well as the impact of serious violence is complex and addressing trauma, adversity and the root causes is a multi-agency response. It must be recognised that adverse childhood experiences can lead to trauma, so we will work together in partnership to address, treat and holistically support young people affected by trauma.

This strategy will also strongly align and connect to the Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, the Youth Justice Plan, and the work of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership ensuring we complement, cross reference and co-produce rather than duplicate existing activity.

Priority 1 - Raise awareness of serious violence through communication, education and training; so that professionals and those in our communities can recognise signs, how to report their concerns and make referrals to other agencies (as appropriate).

It is important that professionals can recognise the signs of serious violence and know how to react accordingly. We will:

- Utilise social media and partner communications to raise awareness of serious violence and its drivers.

DRAFT STRATEGY

- Work with the Voluntary and Community Sector and youth agencies to deliver counter-narrative projects to young people.
- Develop a variety of training materials for Professionals.
- Explore utilising the Thames Valley Together project dashboard to make interagency referrals.

Priority 2 - Support early intervention for vulnerable young people and those becoming at risk:

- It is important to recognise when a person is showing signs of vulnerability to being drawn into this behaviour and to put interventions in place to support and divert them onto a more positive path. Our commitments within this priority include:
 - Work with partners to ensure a wide range of support is available for those at risk.
 - Ensure appropriate response to disclosures made by young people.
 - Identify interventions for young people.
 - Identify and support funding opportunities for organisations who provide support to vulnerable young people.

Priority 3 - Develop awareness of, and embed, the Serious Violence Agenda and Duty requirements amongst the partnership:

- Since the announcement of the new Serious Violence Duty, there has been a strong effort to develop awareness amongst both statutory and community/voluntary organisations. This has included outlining the expectations and requirements for statutory organisations, and this work will continue through this Strategy. Our commitments within this priority include:
 - Identify training opportunities and deliver to a wide audience.
 - Measure the impact of the training through evidencing outcome.

Priority 4 - Enhance appropriate support for those who are released from custody, who are most at risk of reoffending:

- It is important to ensure that those who are being released from prison and police custody have the appropriate support to ensure they can reintegrate themselves in a positive way. Our commitments within this priority include:
 - Develop stronger working relationships with local prisons.
 - Working collaboratively with relevant agencies to ensure suitable support is provided.

Priority 5 - Undertake a proactive partnership response to cohorts and locations vulnerable to serious violence.

Cohorts and locations which are more susceptible to being drawn into serious violence will be identified through data and intelligence and will be responded to and mitigated accordingly. Our commitments within this priority include:

- Continue to implement the Hospital Navigator programme.
- Complete the multi-agency roll out of the Thames Valley Together (TVT) data project.

DRAFT STRATEGY

- Work collaboratively with Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.
- Utilising the TVT project dashboard to identify key locations and cohorts.
- Develop a multi-agency problem solving approach to hotspot locations of concern.

Accountability and Governance

The Safer Buckinghamshire Board will provide strategic oversight of the Serious Violence Response Strategy and will oversee its effectiveness and monitor progress. The Strategy is underpinned by a Delivery Plan that will be implemented by the Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Group.

Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Group

The Serious Violence Reduction (SVR) Delivery group will meet quarterly and is chaired by a representative from the Safer Buckinghamshire Board. Core membership of the SVR Delivery group is:

- Thames Valley Police
- Youth Offending Service
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- Buckinghamshire Council

The SVR Delivery group will also work with a wide range of partners from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors; and other organisations will be invited to attend the SVR Delivery group meetings and will be involved in the implementation of the SV delivery Plan.

The SVR Delivery group will look at how actions within the plan are progressing, which may require reviewing and whether there are blockages to delivering actions which require escalation. Feedback from partner organisations will be vital to understanding the effectiveness of the plan. Updates on the Delivery plan will be provided at Safer Buckinghamshire Board meetings, setting out progress against identified outcomes.

An annual review of the SV Delivery Plan, along with serious violence crime statistics, will be undertaken to ensure the SVR Delivery group are tackling the key issues facing partner agencies and the community within Buckinghamshire. Quantitative evidence of work can prove difficult because of interventions often showing in the long term rather than the short term. Often, qualitative evidence is utilised in the form of case studies to evidence effectiveness. The SV Delivery Plan will be updated in line with the findings of this review and associated case studies.

Buckinghamshire Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership is committed to the principles of the 5 C's whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention.

- Collaboration
- Co-production
- Co-operation in data and intelligence sharing
- Counter-narrative development
- Community consensus

This page is intentionally left blank

Communities and Localism Select Committee (Chairman: Cllr Steve Bowles, Scrutiny officer: Kelly Sutherland)

Date	Topic	Description and Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
4 October 2023	12-month Community Board review update	Following the Committee's Community Board review which was presented to Cabinet in May 2022, Members will receive a further update on the implementation of their recommendations.	Roger Goodes/Wendy Morgan Brown	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes, Wendy Morgan-Brown
	CCTV – Update on development of a CCTV Strategy	Further to Budget Scrutiny highlighting the need for a strategic approach to further capital investment in CCTV in Buckinghamshire, the Committee will receive an update on the next steps in terms of the development of a CCTV strategy.	Gideon Springer	Cllr Arif Hussain, Gideon Springer
	Serious Violence Strategy	The Committee will receive an overview of the Council's proposed Serious Violence Strategy before it is presented for agreement at Cabinet.	Gideon Springer	Cllr Arif Hussain, Gideon Springer
22 November 2023	Cost of Living	An opportunity for members to hear from Council officers and partners on the support that has been available to Buckinghamshire residents to assist them during the cost of living crisis.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt, TBC
	Opportunity Bucks Update	The Committee will receive an update on Opportunity Bucks – the local 'levelling up' initiative which is supporting residents in ten specific wards in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt
	Devolution	The Committee will receive an update on the Council's approach to devolution of services and assets.	Roger Goodes	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes
28 February 2024	Leisure Strategy	The Committee will consider the key elements of the proposed Leisure Strategy ahead of it being presented to Cabinet for agreement.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harriss, Sophie Payne Sue Drummond
	Country Parks	An overview of the Country Parks and their work programme.	Sophie Payne	Cllr Clive Harriss, Sophie Payne, Andrew Fowler
10 April 2024	Town and Parish Charter	The Committee will receive an annual update on work that has been ongoing in support of the Town and Parish Charter.	Simon Garwood	Cllr Arif Hussain, Roger Goodes,

				Simon Garwood
	Asylum and Migration Strategy	The Committee will receive an update on the implementation of the Council's Asylum and Migration Strategy.	Matt Everitt	Cllr Arif Hussain, Matt Everitt