



Serious Violence

Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership Serious Violence
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Serious Violence Support officer



Role of Community Safety Service

- Tackle ASB and Community Safety issues utilising LA Powers and utilising a problem solving multi-agency co-production partnership approach. Support (CSP) Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership).
- Work Themes:
 - Reduce Crime, Safer Streets
 - Support Victims of Crime
 - Modern Slavery and Exploitation
 - Domestic Abuse (Domestic Abuse Bill)
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable people e.g. Young people to Crime, Safer Bucks Plan BP Priority 2
 - Preparing LA for new Statutory Serious Violence Duty

Identified Drivers of Serious Violence Children and Young Persons

Adverse childhood experiences, school exclusions and involvement in violence. We know that young people who have experienced trauma are at greater risk of exploitation, especially within the increasingly violent drug markets. Changes to the drugs market, like the County Lines model of exploitation is fuelling Serious Violence as gangs fight for control of territory and settle scores.

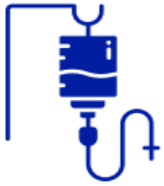
These crimes also hit the poorest hardest, with the poorest fifth of people having hospital admission rates for injuries caused by violence five times higher than those of the most affluent fifth.

We also know that SV disproportionately affect BAME people as perpetrators and victims

The Serious Violence Crime Picture Thames Valley

- There were 3,142 serious violence (SV) offences in Thames Valley in 2020/21, which meet the VRU definition of Serious Violence. *
- There were 2,086 Serious Violence against Victim (SVV) offences in 2020/21
*caveat: does not include Sexual Offences or Drugs Offences
- There were 15 homicides in the Thames Valley in 2020/21, with 3 homicides in 2020 relating to the terrorist attack in Forbery Gardens, Reading. With 7 murders in Bucks, 4 of which are domestic related, 2 amongst groups of youths and 1 a public servant. 16 to 24-year-olds are more likely than older groups to die at the hands of another.
- In Bucks like many crime types, occurrences of Serious Violence involving young people fell in 2020, compared to previous years. (age group 15-25yrs)* Caveat: includes Violence against the Person, Sexual Offences, Robbery, Weapons, Drug Offences

1217 occurrences of serious violence involving young people in 2020	-11% compared to 2019	807 occurrences where the suspect was under 25	-3% compared to 2019
		666 occurrences where the Victim was under 25	-23% compared to 2019



Hospital admissions for assault with a sharp object in England and Wales rose by **41%** from 2014-15 to 2018-19,²² and offences involving firearms increased by 42% from 2013-14 to 2018-19.²³

Hospital admissions

Data from NHS Digital shows that there were 4,091 finished consultant episodes (FCE) recorded in English hospitals in 2020/21 due to assault by a sharp object. This was 14% lower than in 2019/20 but 12% higher than in 2014/15.

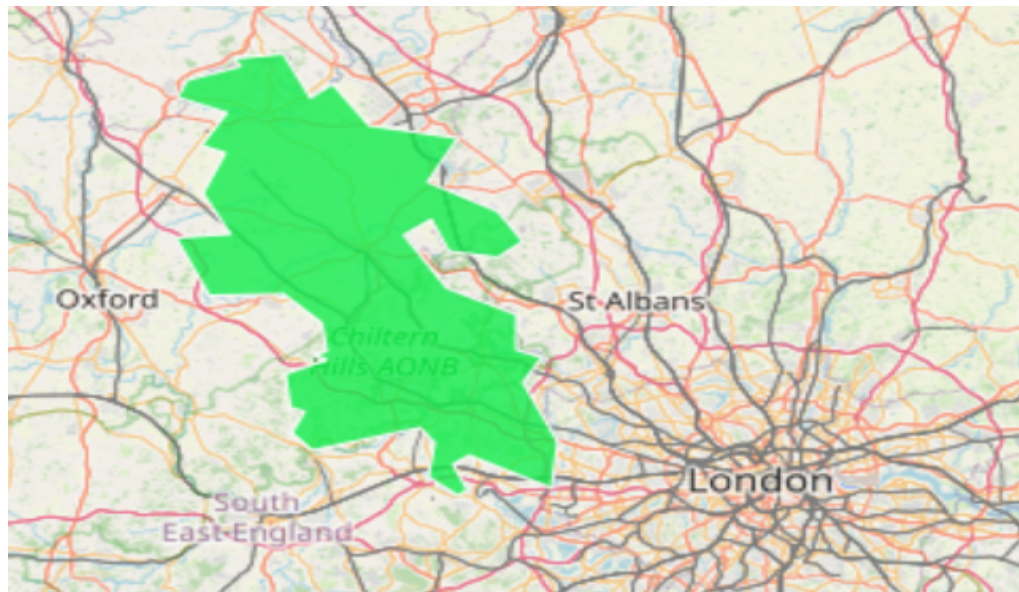
- Nationally Hospital admissions have seen year-on-year falls of 8% and 14% in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively, and offences involving firearms were 14% lower in the year to 2020-21 than in the previous year. (Lockdown effect?)
- In 2020/21, of those admitted to hospital for assault by sharp object 17% were aged 18 or younger. Around 91% of people admitted to hospital for assault by sharp objects were male.

Buckinghamshire Young People Population Growth

Buckinghamshire population projected expected to increase nearly 5% between 2011 and 2026 with a rise by 4% to 536,454 by 2018, an increase of 20,358 from the latest 2013 mid-year estimate (516,096).

An extra 4,100 young people (0-19 years) in **Buckinghamshire** by 2018, an increase of 3% since 2013. This number will have been surpassed by 2021. (Census 21 data awaited)

What does this mean: Increase in **'Demand'** on services and increased **risk** of more young people vulnerable to crime including serious violence.



What is being done to reduce Serious Violence

- **2018** [Serious Violence Strategy - GOV.UK](#)
- **2019** [A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence ...](#)
- **2020** HM Government announce Serious Violence Duty
- **2021** [Serious Violence Duty: draft guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- **New duty to be Law 2022**
- **2021** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beating-crime-plan>
- **2019** Introduction of Regional Violence Reduction Units. Thames Valley VRU Police Managed in Partnership with 9 Local Authorities and other Statutory Agencies. YOS part of the Regional Board

National Strategy Public Health Approach to Tackle Serious Violence

The Serious Violence Strategy takes a public health approach to tackling violence – looking at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a law enforcement problem but instead as a preventable consequence of a range of factors such as adverse early-life experiences or harmful social or community experiences and influences.

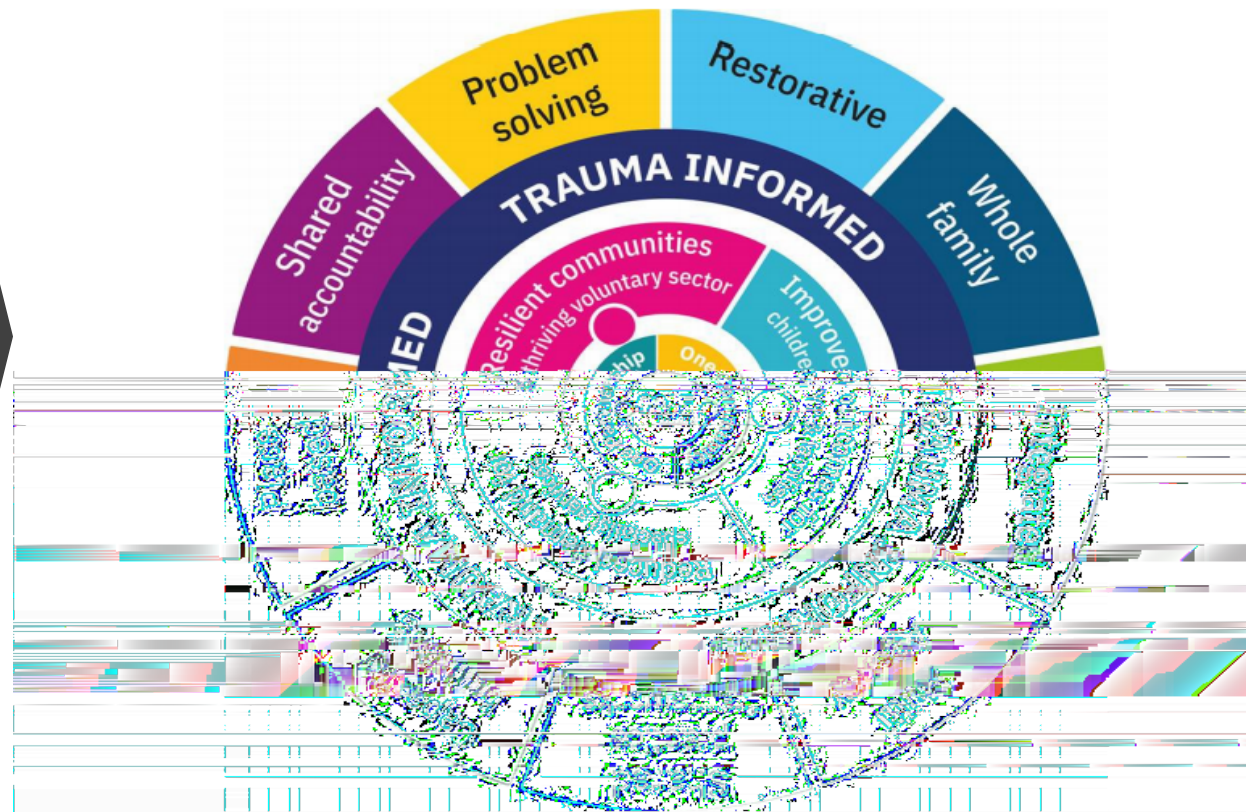
A Whole-System Approach encompassing all Statutory Agencies, Police, NHS, GP's, Local Authorities, Probation, Prison Service, Education...

Working with Communities and the Charitable and Voluntary Sector

“Enabling, Encouraging, Mobilising, Collaborating and Co-producing together to Safeguard young people and protect our Communities”

A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention

Outcome:
Achieve a
Whole System
Approach
across TV
including
Bucks



What is the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit doing

- VRU provides Strategic co-ordination and oversight and delivery of Home Office Strategy and project development and manages home office funding for projects. £1.8 million funding this financial year
- <https://www.tvvru.co.uk>
- VRU-TV area: Governance Board, Operational Board, TVT Data programme Board
- Thames Valley Together Data Sharing project (Integrated information sharing system) NHS, Probation, Local Authorities Key partners
- Funding for Intervention Providers: New Leaf Mentoring, Custody Divert, Hospital Navigators, Drug Youth diversion
- Community Projects: Intensive Engagement, Redeem Our Communities
- Education PHSE resources for schools to raise awareness 'Dees Story' Mentors in Violence Prevention
- Targeted Police Enforcement, Disruption Activities and Focussed Deterrence initiative (Aylesbury Pilot), Trauma informed Training programme for Officers
- Provided 40k to LA's to recruit 12 month fixed contract support worker to help prepare for SV Duty. (BC advert has gone out)
- Research funding 'Out of Court Disposals' and Oxford Uni academic research

What are we doing about SV in Bucks

- Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership (CSP) oversight SV Agenda
- Serious Violence Task Force now Operational to co-ordinate Partnership activities
- SV Plan Aims: Safeguarding young people up to 25years of age, Early Intervention
- Raising Awareness of forthcoming new SV Duty and joint TVP Intel Training to professionals
- **Project development and support activities:**
- Community Engagement Projects : I.E. Wycombe, ROC Aylesbury
- Intervention Support to professionals in Bucks and TVP: Intervention Menu/BOD, Community Boards Commissioning/Youth Interventions, FD project TVP, developing work with our Communities and Voluntary sector to support and divert young people
- Utilise BC services: 'Open Doors' Adult learning referral pathway, Safeguarding Vulnerable persons YP and Adults, continue to identify and develop intervention provision
- DWP employment support, 'Track to Success' railway employment project
- 10K Intervention fund for specialist Interventions (professionals use)
- 'Achilles Heel' Operational support to TVP (Law Enforcement support utilising Council Powers)
- BC Family Support Service and MASH/MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation HUB) Early Intervention

Spotting the Signs

- Has young person become withdrawn from the family and/or school
- Is their school or college reporting worrying changes in behaviour, academic achievement or attendance
- Have they lost interest in positive activities such as sports clubs
- Do they stay out unusually late without giving a reason and are vague about their whereabouts
- Are they regularly going missing and refuse to state where they have been
- Have they stopped seeing old friends and started hanging out with a new group?
- Are they secretive about the contents of their bag
- Are they defensive if you ask what is in their possession or if they are hiding anything?
- Has their attitude changed about carrying knives/weapons for example 'justifying it by saying people carry them for self-defence'
- Have any items gone missing from the kitchen, tool box or garage?
- Have you found a weapon hidden amongst their possessions

Buckinghamshire referral Pathway

- All Child and Adult Safeguarding concerns must be referred into the **Buckinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** which co-locates with key partners e.g. MH, CCG, Police to Triage the initial response to safeguarding concerns in relation to children and vulnerable adults
- Some individuals will be suitable for Early Help from our Family Support Service and some may be escalated to the Child Protection Sect 47 Strategy meeting/Conference threshold or Sect 17 Child in Need.
- Early Intervention referrals gives us the best chance of Preventing a person from escalating into entrenched and difficult to reach behaviours
- Link to Professional Reporting:
<https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk/childrenpartnership/reporting-a-concern/report-a-concern-professional/>

- **The MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Hub)**

Deals with referrals for under 18s (under 25 for Care leavers) suspected or known to be involved in Child Sexual or Criminal Exploitation. Aim is to put in a package of support /interventions to divert and support a young person e.g. Mentoring

Keeping Communities and Safeguarding People in Buckinghamshire

“Its all of our Responsibility”

Any Q's

Thank You For Listening