

Serious Violence in North Yorkshire and York

Response Strategy 2024 - 2026



NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



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1.0 Introduction to North Yorkshire and York Serious Violence Strategy

Foreword

“Serious violence has a devastating impact on victims, families, and communities across the country and whilst we know that overall North Yorkshire is one of the safest places to live, we can’t be naïve in thinking serious violence doesn’t happen here – we know it does – and people across our county need to feel safe and be kept safe.

As a partnership of committed public sector agencies, North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and Safer York Partnership are proud to publish the North Yorkshire and York Response Strategy in line with the Government’s Serious Violence Duty.

The Strategic Needs Assessment has effectively identified the areas in North Yorkshire and York where Serious Violence is the most prominent and where we most need to focus efforts to tackle it. This has informed our Response Strategy which will be implemented together over the next two years to tackle Serious Violence across our county and help keep our communities safe and feeling safe.”

Fran Naughton, Chair of Safer York Partnership and Catherine Clarke, Chair of North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership



2.0 Background

2.1 The Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) introduced by the Home Office in January 2023 encourages the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to convene specified authorities to collaborate and work in partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence that occurs in the local area.

To do this, the Serious Violence Partnership should undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to understand the nature of serious violence in the area, and the causes of that violence, and prepare a Response Strategy to address it.

The specified authorities include:

- North Yorkshire Police (NYP)
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (NYFRS)
- North Yorkshire Council (and Community Safety Hubs Representatives) (NYC)
- City of York Council (including Youth Justice Services) (CYC)
- Probation Service Yorkshire and the Humber
- Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

This Strategy will explain the local priorities agreed by the specified authorities to reduce Serious Violence in North Yorkshire and York and inform delivery over the next two years.

In addition to the specified authorities listed above, the strategy was produced in consultation with education and prison services; one such being The North Yorkshire Youth Commission which enables young people to inform policy and decision making. As such, our priorities have been reviewed by them to ensure these reflect public opinion.

For further public consultation, two surveys were conducted: Serious Violence Survey and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Survey. These surveys helped to inform the Local Partnership's final definition of serious violence, as well as how the public experiences serious violence and its impacts.

Our aims are:

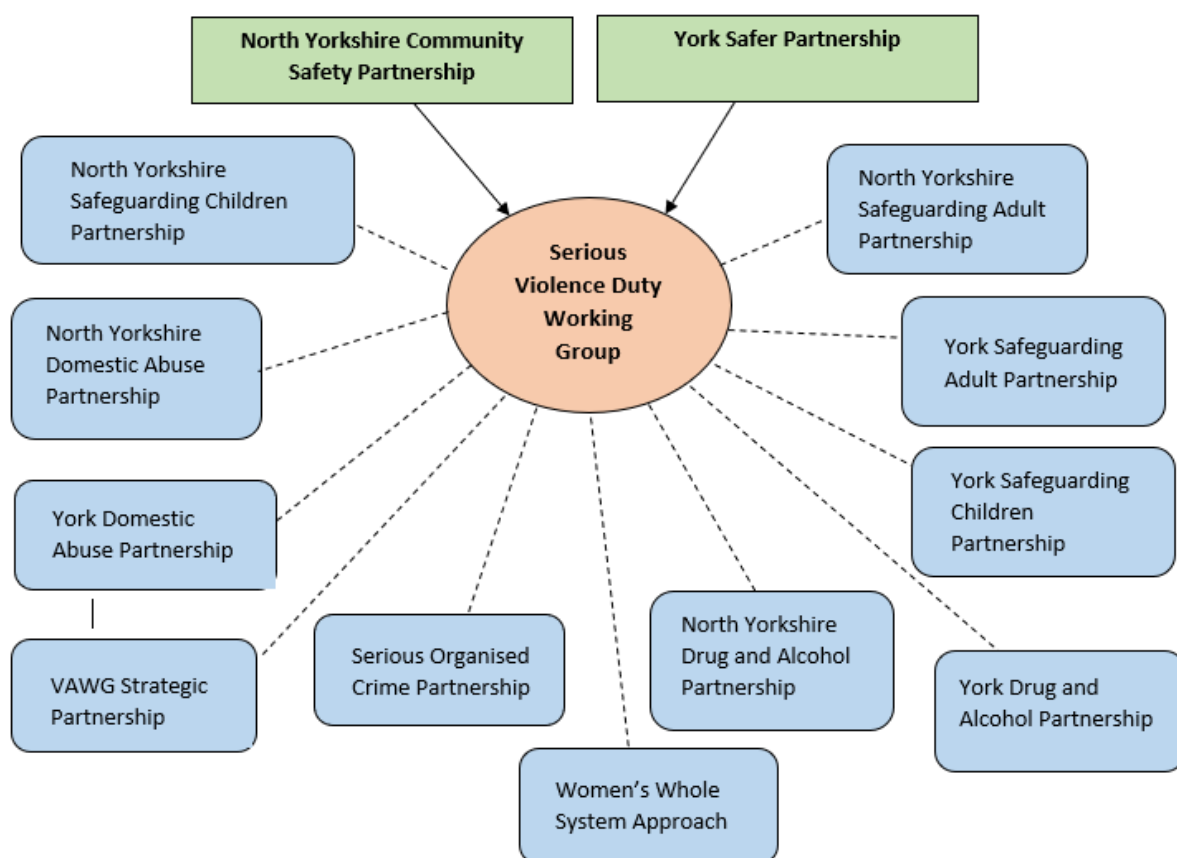
- I. To understand the extent of violence throughout North Yorkshire through the analysis of characteristics, patterns of behaviour and the impact on the wider community.
- II. To identify the risk factors that increase the likelihood of violence, and how these factors can be reduced through prevention, diversion, and early intervention.
- III. To establish effective interventions in a variety of settings and monitor the impact on reducing serious violence these interventions produce.

2.2 Governance and links to other Partnerships

To monitor progress of the Duty, local governance arrangements have been established through North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and Safer York Partnership.

The Serious Violence Duty Working Group reports into each Community Safety Partnership respectively and is responsible for delivery of the Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy, monitoring progress and plays a role in sharing relevant data and best practice.

All specified authorities listed in section 2.1 sit on the working group, routinely attending working group meetings and workshops. The partnerships in the diagram below are represented through specific practitioners at the working group, or relevant information is fed in through the CSP chairs.



As noted in the diagram, York and North Yorkshire hosts many aligned local partnerships, that will have similar aims, priorities, and outcomes to that of the Serious Violence Duty Working Group and strategy.

These partnerships will be used for co-working and co-commissioning of funded activities, so local representatives who sit within their expert area can take a lead on aligned priorities and activities funded through the strategy.

Further details on how existing partnerships link to the Duty are explained on page 35. Please see Appendix A 'Terms of Reference' for full details of the Working Group.

2.3 Funding

Home Office funding of £519,112.00 has been allocated to North Yorkshire and York from 2022-25 to support the development of the Strategic Needs Assessment, Strategy, and development of interventions to address serious violence.

January – March 2023

£30,000 funding between January 2023 to March 2023 covered labour costs only, as North Yorkshire and York doesn't have an established Violence Reduction Unit.

In this context, labour costs are costs associated with preparing and developing the Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy. These include meeting costs, analysis, and strategy development. For OPFCC staff to convene the Working Group, manage the finances and support partnership collaboration alongside the North Yorkshire Police analyst undertaking the SNA and North Yorkshire Council administration support to the group.

April 2023 - March 2024

Funding during 2023-24 at £180,000.00 continued the arrangements above, as well as including the introduction of non-labour costs. These costs were associated with implementing the local solutions to reduce serious violence, through that of interventions.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, together with statutory partners, committed to investing the non-labour cost allocated funding of £78,899.05 in evidence-based initiatives at a local level. These aim to reduce serious violence and achieve positive outcomes for individuals and communities, supporting the Duty's aim to establish effective interventions in a variety of settings.

The Serious Violence Duty Prevention and Early Intervention Fund Grant Programme was launched in September 2023, with the Funding Panel taking place in November 2023.

A summary of the process can be found here: <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/how-can-we-help/community-projects/svd/>. Details of the successful interventions can be found in section 6.0 Interventions.

April 2024 - March 2025

For 2024/25 £38,520.85 is allocated to labour costs and a further £221,692.32 for non-labour costs. Labour costs will continue the arrangements set out above.

The non-labour costs are all allocated to the successful interventions (detailed in the interventions section). These interventions are funded to support a long-term approach to tackling serious violence, and to support our prevention and early intervention method.

2.4 Definition of Serious Violence

The Serious Violence Duty is not given a set definition of serious violence, and each local area is encouraged to set their own definition.

The definition of serious violence for North Yorkshire and York reflects issues found within the local area, and the impact and prevalence of different types of serious violence.

Therefore, for North Yorkshire and York, the following crimes are included in our definition of serious violence and were used during the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA):

- Homicide
- Violence with Injury¹
- Domestic Abuse
- Rape and Sexual Offences
- Weapon Related Violence; including Weapon Possession
- Arson Endangering Life
- Stalking and Harassment; non-domestic

In addition, the following areas of thematic interest are considered within the wider profile:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Young People
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Mental Health
- Deprivation and Employment
- Education

Rationale:

Some categories were considered for inclusion but excluded due to being covered by governance structures elsewhere.

- All HO Classifications under the 'Violence without Injury' subgroup have been excluded as they do not involve serious violence.
- County lines activity has the propensity for violence; however, this has not been included as a separate theme as it will be covered in the Drugs Market Profile, Drugs Strategy and Drug & Alcohol SNA.
- Modern Slavery has not been included, however any incidents with serious violence linked to victims of modern slavery will be picked up within the data set and noted within the SNA.

¹ Attempted Murder, Endangering Life, Grievous Bodily Harm, Actual Bodily Harm, Administering Poison with Intent to Injure, Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation

3.0 Executive Summary

The main aim of the Serious Violence Duty is to reduce serious violence across York and North Yorkshire. One stage of this is to undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to understand the causes and nature of serious violence in the local area and any risk and protective factors linked.

The response strategy is then created to respond to the SNA. The response strategy for North Yorkshire and York takes a prevention and early intervention approach to focus on keeping levels of Serious Violence low in the area.

An extensive SNA has been undertaken to understand the risks, causes and impacts of violence in the local area. Based on the SNA findings, the Duty are focusing on five strategic priorities:

- Priority 1: Awareness Raising and Public Perception
- Priority 2: Children and Young people – Under 18 (school age)
- Priority 3: Possession and Use of Weapons
- Priority 4: Alcohol, Violence and Night-time Economy (NTE)
- Priority 5: Violence Against Women and Girls

As part of the response strategy, the Local Partnership ran the Prevention and Early Intervention Fund Grant Programme, which gave partners the opportunity to bid for funding for a variety of projects.

The Grant Programme has seen the successful funding of a number of evidence-based initiatives, all of which support a pro-active, sustainable, outcomes focused approach to reducing serious violence through prevention, early intervention, and diversion.






These projects, alongside their partners, will deliver interventions which tackle each of the priority areas, including educational programmes, awareness raising campaigns and weapon amnesties.

Full details can be found in section 6.0 Interventions.

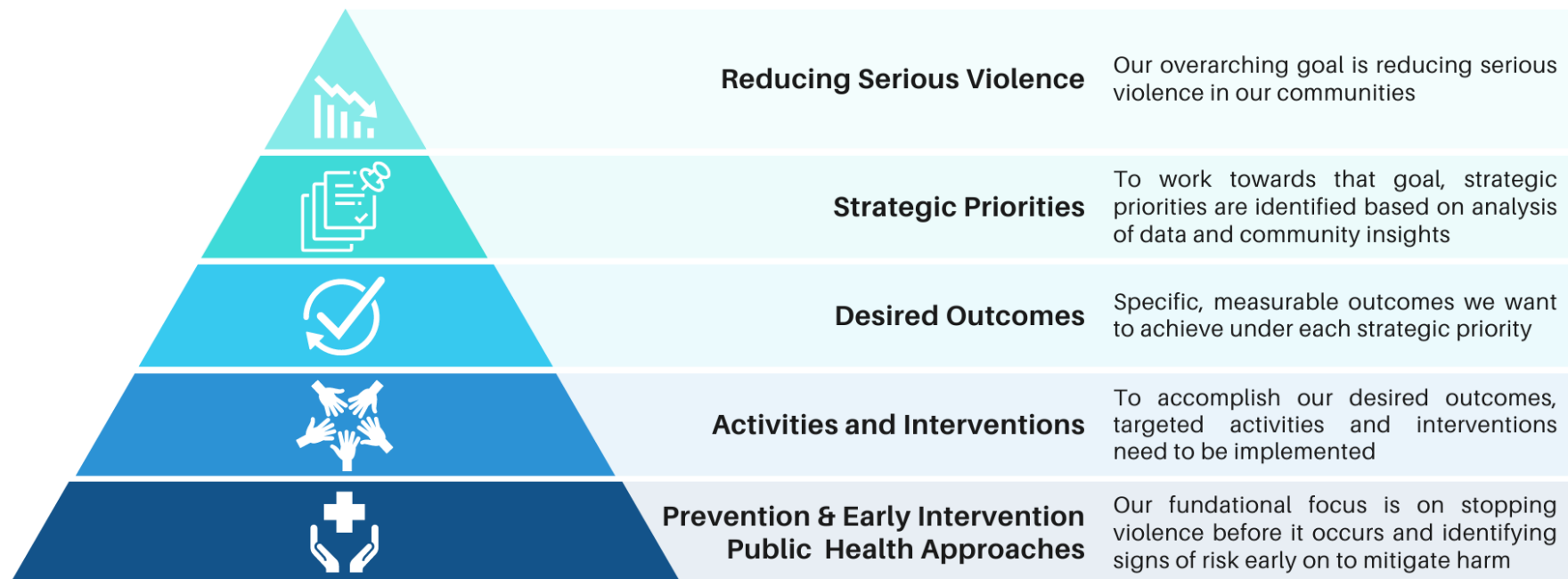
A full evaluation framework has been drafted to demonstrate the outcomes this strategy will help to achieve as well as how the Duty plan to measure the progress of the strategy going forward.

This strategy and SNA will be reviewed annually and updated accordingly, however outputs and key indicators linked to specific interventions and activities will be measured quarterly where possible, to feed into the working group to keep the aligned partnerships aware of the on-going progress.

Plan on a page

| Our strategic priorities | Our Serious Violence Duty Grant Funded interventions | How they'll help |
|---|---|---|
|  Awareness Raising and Public Perception | <p><i>All SVD Grant Funded interventions and projects set out below reflect our aim to raise awareness and improve public perception of our Serious Violence (SV) Strategy...</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public confidence and a greater feeling of safety among our communities. Overall reduction in SV offences |
|  Children and Young People | <p>Emotional Wellbeing Support in Schools Therapeutic support and informal supervision to school staff to aid children's understanding of emotions/reactions. Targeting 20 high-risk young people in 3 schools</p> <p>Inspire Futures Engaging 250 YP through mobile youth services</p> <p>York Youth Bus Continuing existing mobile youth outreach programme</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved practical advice for schools and young people to reduce aggressive behaviour, improve emotional understanding and prevent future violence. Improved social skills, school attachment and in turn attendance rates and educational attainment for at-risk cohort. Fewer reported incidents of SV among children and young people. Fewer reported incidents of SV among children and young people. |
|  Possession and Use of Weapons | <p>Knife Bin Rollout Expanding existing knife disposal programme across York and North Yorkshire</p> <p>Emergency Bleed Control Kits Installing 29 emergency bleed control kits throughout York and North Yorkshire</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in number of weapon possession offences, and a decrease in weapon-enabled serious violence offences Decrease in number of fatal or life changing injuries |
|  Alcohol, Violence and Night-time Economy | <p>Operation Night Safe Selby Creating safety officer patrols on weekend nights in Selby city centre to identify vulnerability & provide safe spaces</p> <p>Operation Reach Boosting police presence on peak nights in York and using social media for public reporting of potential crimes</p> <p>Snickleway Lighting Installing lights in alleyways and passages in York prone to criminal activity to improve public safety</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in SV and VAWG offences linked to alcohol and substance misuse Prevention and reduction in serious violence and VAWG offences linked to alcohol and substance misuse. Increased reporting directly to officers in relation to suspicious and criminal behaviour. Improved feelings of safety among those in York, particularly at night Disruption of offender patterns, reducing criminality. |
|  Violence Against Women and Girls | <p>Why did you do that? Creating a film to raise awareness of cultural harms victims and violence against BAME women & girls</p> <p>She Was Walking Home Theatre workshops in schools exploring harassment and abuse against women based on real testimonies</p> <p>St Giles Trust - grassroots project On-the-ground community support for vulnerable young women and girls involved in crime and anti-social behaviour in Scarborough</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased confidence from victims to report VAWG offences. To change attitudes and beliefs for future generations to break the cycle of abuse. Long-term reduction in VAWG and domestic abuse offences, and increased convictions of offences. Improved attitudes and behaviours in young people to inform decision-making, breaking the cycle of abuse. Decrease in crimes involving young people, girls, and women. Decrease in girls and women in vulnerable positions, and a greater understanding of support available through the wider community. |

North Yorkshire and York Serious Violence Duty - Our Response to Serious Violence



3.1 What we know about Serious Violence in North Yorkshire and York

Between April 2022 and March 2023, **5** people lost their lives to violence in York and North Yorkshire. In the same period there were **7,396** serious violence offences committed. In addition to the tragic loss of life and impact that serious violence offences have on individuals, families, and the community, in monetary terms these offences have cost York and North Yorkshire over **£150 million** during the analysed period.

The purpose of the Needs Assessment is to understand the extent of Serious Violence throughout York and North Yorkshire through the analysis of characteristics, patterns of behaviour and the impact on the wider community. Our aims are to establish the risk factors that increase the likelihood of violence, and how these factors can be reduced through prevention and early intervention.

The following key findings show the picture of Serious Violence in York and North Yorkshire and highlight the factors that underpin violence; this is the first step to implementing a public health approach to tackling and reducing Serious Violence within our communities.

York

Deprivation

- York is the 12th least deprived local authority nationally, ranked out of 151 upper tier local authorities in the Index of Multiple Deprivation.²
- The score for Education and Training fell in the most recent IMD.
- York scores higher on most categories compared to North Yorkshire, showing lower levels of deprivation.
- York is the 6th least affected local authority in England for overall crime according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation score.

Employment

- 2% of the working population are in receipt of Jobs Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit.
- Both male and female claimants have seen a reduction in numbers.

- 11% of children are living in absolute low-income families, 4% lower than the national average.
- Those in York experience lower than average rates of pay, over 20% earn less than the national living wage.

Education

- York Ofsted ratings were at a high level, and all secondary schools were rated as 'outstanding' or 'good'.
- 1.5% of sessions had children absent without the school's consent; 93% of children linked to a serious violence offence had been persistently absent.
- Only 1% of 16–17-year-olds were not in education or training.

² To score deprivation 39 datasets, rounded into seven categories – income, employment, health, education & skills, housing & access to services, crime and

living environment – which are given different weighting; a higher score equals greater deprivation.

- 19% of school children in York were eligible for free school meals; 62% of those linked to a serious violence offence were eligible.
- 82% of children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had been suspended and 3% had been excluded.

Substance Misuse

- York had a larger proportion of those admitted to hospital for substance and alcohol misuse, than seen within North Yorkshire.
- Over 1,000 people from York are in structured treatment for drug and alcohol use; 22% of those people had children living with them.

Mental Health

- York has a higher-than-average proportion of residents who were admitted to hospital due to self-harm injuries; rates were particularly high for 10–24-year-olds.
- There has been a decrease in suicide rates, however there is over-representation from those living in more deprived areas.

Youth Offending

- York had 29% of all Youth Outcome Panel referrals in 2022; the 10–17-year-old population in York is overrepresented in panel referrals. Scarborough in North Yorkshire is however more overrepresented.
- 14-year-olds made up the largest proportion of York's Youth Outcome Panel at 34%.
- Female referrals have increased from 19% in 2021 to 36% in 2022; these females are linked to high levels of first-time violent offences.

³ Outcome 22 should recognise cases where investigations have taken place and, although the outcome is NFA, there has been action taken to prevent reoffending or change behaviour by addressing the root cause of the offending.

- The percentage of referrals dealt with out the criminal justice system, for both York and North Yorkshire, increased to 72% due to 'Outcome 22'.³

Violence Against Women and Girls

- VAWG offences continue to be on the rise nationally, a trend also seen within York.
- A recent report from SafeLives suggests half of women who are suspected of being victims of such crimes are non-visible to services and do not report crimes.

Violence

- Compared to the national average York has lower crime severity levels, although higher than North Yorkshire.
- Overall, there was a decrease in serious violence to the year March 2023, however York has an average rate of 7.8 per 1,000 for violence with injury offences. This is the second highest in all localities.
- There is a clear link between serious violence, alcohol, and the weekend & evening periods; night-time economy will be a priority.
- Administering poison offences remain high in York among young adults.
- Possession of weapon offences increased by 5% in the year to March 2023, lower than the rate in North Yorkshire. Firearms offences are not an issue within York due to low number of offences.
- Rape offences have decreased by 15%, however 23% of victims were under 18 years old which is a clear vulnerability.
- Serious sexual offences increased by 9% and had the second highest rate of serious violent offences. Offences were linked to the night-time economy and student population, with victim and offenders in the same age group (18–25-year-olds).

Domestic Abuse

- York has seen the largest decrease of domestic offences out of all localities; however, it still has the second highest rate of crimes at 9.3 per 1,000 of the population.
- Low level assaults and stalking were the most common crimes, with an increase in non-fatal strangulation after it became an official offence.
- Offence numbers are high between ex-partners, which shows the need for further protection for domestic abuse survivors.

North Yorkshire

Deprivation

- North Yorkshire is the 26th least deprived local authority nationally, ranked out of 151 upper tier local authorities.
- Barriers to services was a concern area, this can be partly explained due to the rural nature of the locality.
- Scarborough is significantly more deprived than any other locality within North Yorkshire, experiencing low income, low employment, lack of educational attainment, poor health, and high crime rates.
- North Yorkshire is the 4th least affected local authority in England for overall crime according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation score.

Employment

- 1.9% of the working population are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit.
- The number of people claiming these benefits has decreased, however more women are now claiming.
- 12% of children are living in absolute low-income households; Scarborough had the largest amount at 37%.

Education

- 1.2% of schools' sessions had children absent without consent; 83% of pupils linked to a serious violence offence had been persistently absent.
- 1.9% of 16-17 years are not in education or training.
- 18% of North Yorkshire schools were rated as 'inadequate'.
- 17% of pupils are eligible for free school meals; 62% of those linked to a serious violence offence were eligible.
- 83% of children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had ever been suspended and 16% had been excluded.

Substance Misuse

- Over 2,450 people from North Yorkshire are in structured treatment for drug and alcohol use; 18% of those in treatment had children within the household.
- There are very low levels of people in structured treatment who complete, with many re-presenting within 6 months.
- There is a higher rate of hospital admissions for 15-24 years olds linked to substance misuse than the national average.

- Scarborough and Harrogate had high levels of hospital admissions due to alcohol misuse, which can be expected due to the urban nature of these areas.

Mental Health

- Scarborough has a higher-than-average rate of people experiencing depression or anxiety compared to national averages; 16% of the population.

Youth Offending

- The number of referrals to the Youth Outcome Panel from within North Yorkshire has decreased from 77% in 2021 to 71% in 2022.
- Scarborough had the highest proportion of referrals within the North Yorkshire cohort, and Harrogate had a high proportion of referrals comparative to the 10–17-year-old population.
- Those from Scarborough are significantly overrepresented at the panel, more so than any other locality.
- 12% of those referred to the panel have been re-referred within 12 months.

Violence Against Women and Girls

- VAWG offences continue to be on the rise nationally, a trend also seen within North Yorkshire.
- A recent report from SafeLives suggests half of women who are suspected of being victims of such crimes are non-visible to services and do not report crimes.

Violence

- Compared to the national average North Yorkshire has a lower rate of crime severity levels, this is also lower than York and the Regional average.

- There has been a decrease across the most serious crimes; Homicide and GBH, however possession of weapon offences increased by 35% in the year to March.
- The largest increase in weapon possession offences was seen in Scarborough; offenders were younger than other crime types.
- 50% of North Yorkshires violent offences were linked to substance misuse, mostly alcohol related and can be associated to the late evening and weekend periods highlighting the night-time economy.
- Whilst York saw a decrease in rape offences, North Yorkshire had an increase of 11%. Scarborough had the highest rate of rape offences at 1.1 of the 1,000 population; the only locality to see a rate over 0.6 per 1,000 of the population.
- Scarborough had a significantly higher rate of serious sexual offences at 1.2 compared to an average of 0.5 across the county.
- As recorded in Police data, a larger proportion of rape offences in North Yorkshire are domestic related, higher than York and serious sexual offences.
- Victims of serious sexual offences were considerably younger than the trend of other violent offences; 41% were under 18 years old and offenders were of an older age group.

Domestic Abuse

- All localities have recorded a decrease of domestic related offences within the past year; Selby and Harrogate having the biggest decrease in the number of offences.
- Scarborough had the highest rate of criminality at 15.7 per 1,000 of the population; second was Selby at 8.6.
- Low level assaults were the most common domestic related crime type, emotional injuries were recorded most frequently highlighting the psychological effect of domestic incidents.
- Offence numbers are high between ex-partners, which shows the need for further protection for domestic abuse survivors.

3.2 Serious Violence Duty Survey

To develop the SNA and Strategy, the Serious Violence Working Group ran a Serious Violence survey, which was open to both public and professionals across the county to understand communities' concerns and experiences of serious violence in North Yorkshire and York.

The survey was conducted through the month of July 2023, and the below results were compiled in August 2023.

The survey asked several questions relating to types of violence, how safe people felt in different locations and at times of the day and requested thoughts on how the Serious Violence Duty can bring together partners to best prevent serious violence.

67 people completed the survey in total; however, participants had the option to skip questions or answer with their own lived experiences. Over 100 people started the survey but chose to exit before the end and so their responses were not counted.

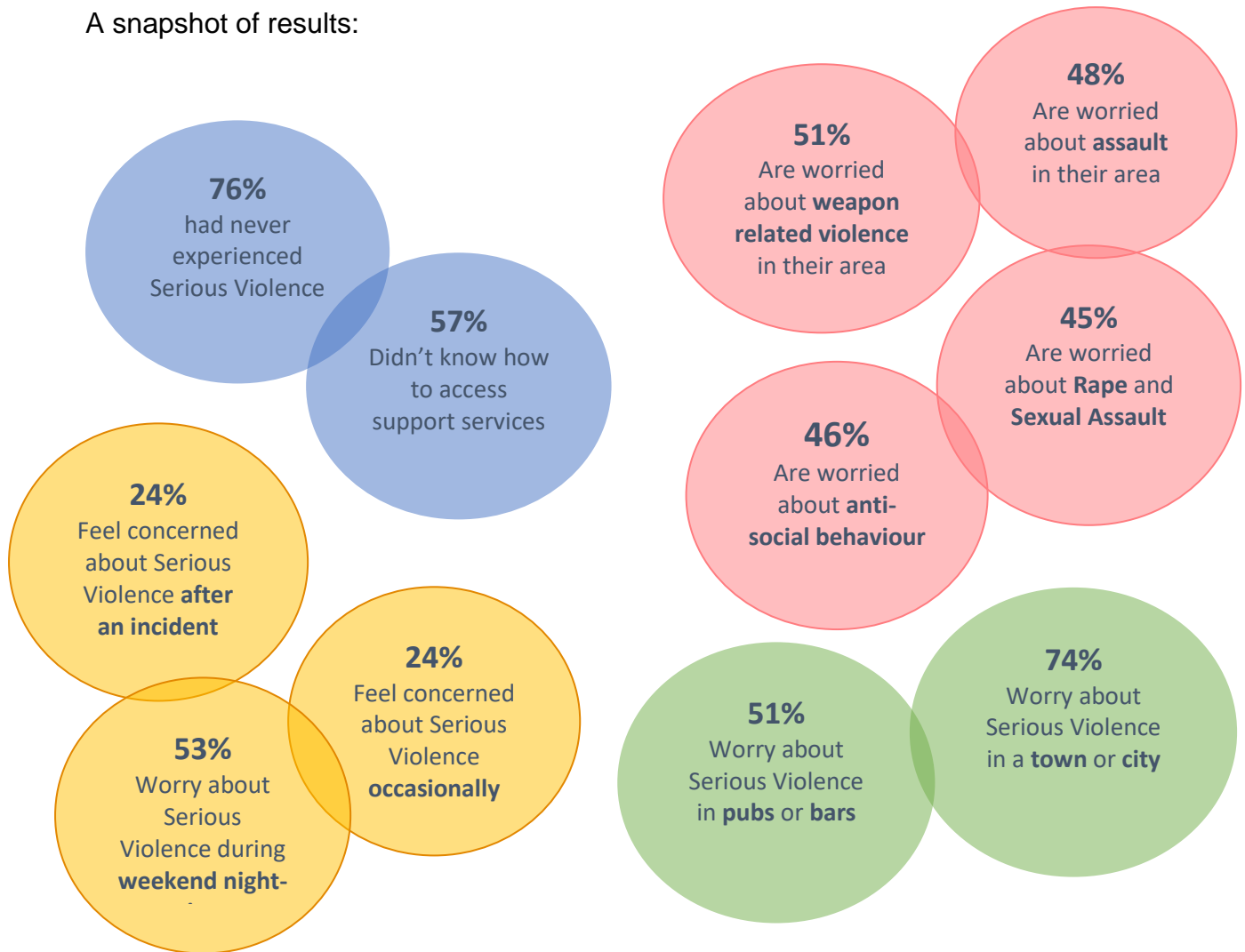
It should be noted that due to such a small sample size, the results of the survey do not represent the overall population of York and North Yorkshire and instead should be considered a snapshot of a few.

In conjunction with the annual review of the SNA and the Strategy, the survey will be updated and re-run to compare responses since the initial survey and how the results will continue to inform the approach to tackling serious violence.

There will also be an aim to increase the amount of people completing the survey, with an additional focus on the younger population engaging with the survey.

| Characteristic | Demographic breakdown |
|----------------|--|
| Gender | 80% females and 17% male |
| Sexuality | The majority were heterosexual. |
| Ethnicity | 90% selected their ethnicity as white, which reflects the demographic trend of North Yorkshire |
| Age | The majority age group at 46% were 45-54 years, this accurately reflects North Yorkshire's demographic. 55-64 years was the next largest group; only 17% of survey respondents were 34 or younger. York has a much lower median age, which were not reflected in the participants. |
| Location | Participants from York made up the majority group with 26%, followed by those in Scarborough 22%, then Harrogate 20%. 17% of participants were from out of the area, however the survey is also directed at those who travel into North Yorkshire for work and leisure. |

A snapshot of results:



There were many responses when participants were asked 'How should Serious Violence be addressed?' The most selected options were as followed:

- Diversion from offending through support activities, both for adults and children
- Enforcement through the criminal justice system
- Raising awareness and education through schools for young people
- Awareness raising for adults
- Increased regulation in shops selling knives and other weapons
- Parenting programmes
- Employment opportunities
- Weapon amnesty
- Training for professionals

These responses were closely considered within the strategy and in particular the grant funding process, which is reflected in the projects which were successful.


It is our aim that the Serious Violence Duty's strategy and interventions will reflect the needs of our communities, and this in turn will show through in the impact that these projects have on our local areas.

3.3 VAWG Survey Results

As mentioned previously, the SV Partnership will work closely with others who have similar priorities and activities. An example of this is the VAWG Survey, conducted by the VAWG Strategic Partnership, which is an on-going survey, with our results taken in October 2023.

34% of respondents were aware of the VAWG Strategy prior to completing the survey, which highlights that the VAWG strategy has influenced some of our population but will aim to expand this reach.

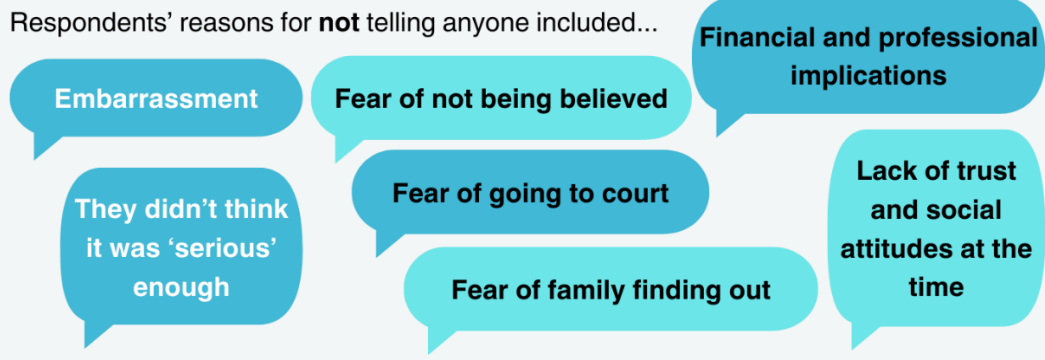
These results were taken from a survey ran in October 2023 and feed into Priority 5 of our Serious Violence strategy

 **42%** of our survey respondents had experienced VAWG and told us more about their experience




8 in 10 of these told someone about what happened, including friends & family, police and support services






Respondents' reasons for **not** telling anyone included...




57% did not report their experience to the police, noting the reasons above. Their **experiences with the police** was mixed...

-  Polite
-  Quick process
-  Action taken against perpetrator

-  No action taken/ unable to prosecute
-  Lack of response and update
-  Attitude of officers

Only **21%** of those who responded had their case heard in court









 **71%** did **not** receive help from any support services or agencies

Those who **did** receive support mentioned the following organisations....



Experiences with support services included....

-  Being listened to
-  Face-to-face support
-  Offered protective equipment

-  Long waiting lists
-  Negative experience with social services
-  No follow up after the first session

4.0 Our approach to Serious Violence

4.1 Public Health Approach

The Strategy will take a public health approach to addressing serious violence. A Public Health approach is a multi-partner approach, utilising knowledge from specialist areas such as education, healthcare, and social services. A public health approach is defined by using data, intelligence, and case studies to identify the extent of serious violence and what impact this has on perpetrators and victims of crime, and the wider community.

In using a public health approach, interventions are underpinned by partnership working through collaboration, coproduction, and cooperation.

'Partnership is central to public health approaches because the breadth of population need requires intervention across many disciplines and services. Different partners have access to different skills, levers, and mechanisms to effect change'.

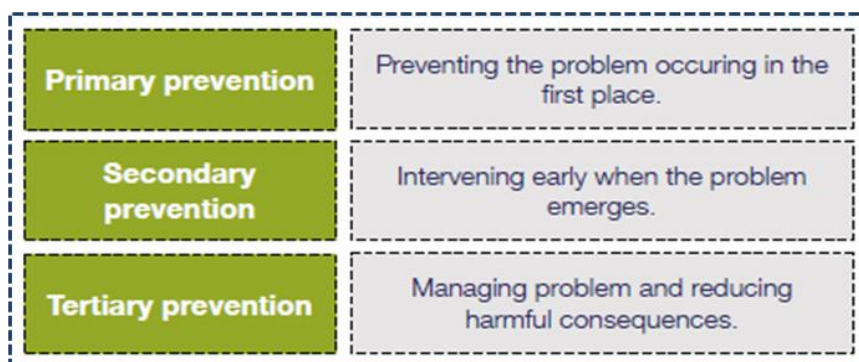
(Public Health England, 2019)

Public Health England's public health approach to serious violence identifies the '5 C's approach' – collaboration, co-production, cooperation in data and intelligence sharing, counter-narrative, and community consensus. This approach will be applied within the North Yorkshire Serious Violence Duty.

The Strategic Needs Assessment, produced by the Duty, has provided evidenced based information, which will underpin the Strategy, to take a public health approach to serious violence.

4.2 Prevention and Early Intervention

Due to the wide range of risk factors which contribute to serious violence, a public health approach naturally lends itself to the problem. Through the long-term reduction of these risk factors, the decrease of serious violence can be sustained.



Three levels of prevention are identified and can be applied to different cohorts of offenders or potential offenders. A high-risk cohort requires a reduction in offending and tertiary prevention, the at-risk cohort requires early intervention and therefore secondary intervention, and the low-risk cohort needs primary prevention.

Although the importance of preventative work is widely recognised, demand for services and reduced funding has resulted in some services having to be reactive and respond to crisis rather than at an early intervention stage. By identifying the key risk factors, locations at risk and cohorts of offenders, targeted preventative solutions can be embedded into everyday work throughout the partnership services which already exist.

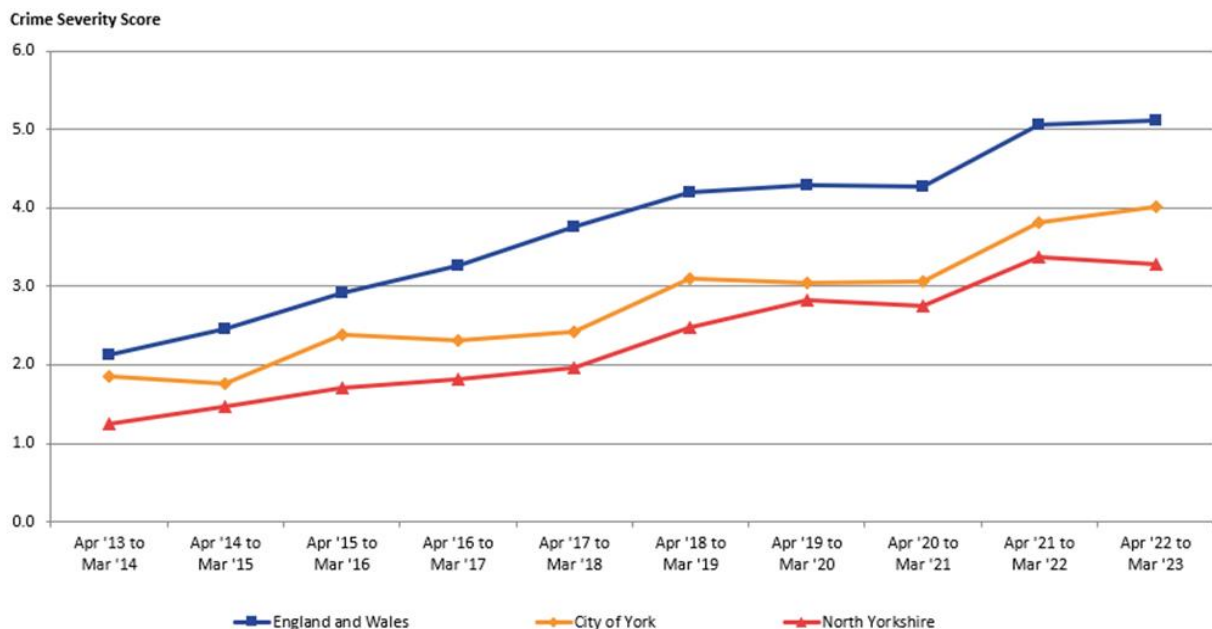
4.3 Evidence linked to Prevention and Early Intervention

The Strategic Needs Assessment found the rate of Serious Violence offences across North Yorkshire and York remains much lower than the national and regional average, so overall York and North Yorkshire is a very low risk area.

Violence with Injury had an offence rate of 8.5 per 1,000 of the population in York and North Yorkshire; this is lower than the national average rate at 9.6. The regional average was 11.7 per 1,000; all other counties in the region had a rate of over 12 per 1,000.

Overall, Violence with Injury has seen a 5% decrease in offences in 2022/23, including the more serious offences of Wounding or Inflicting Grievously Bodily Harm (GBH) and Wounding with intent to do GBH which saw 45 less crimes than the year previous. Attempted murder saw an increase of nine offences from two to 11 incidents, however homicides decreased from ten offences to five.

Of the violence with injury offences, for York and North Yorkshire, 194 included the use of a knife; this makes up 3% of the offences.



Not all offences are equal in terms of harm, and so crime numbers are not always a true reflection of the scale of harm caused. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has developed the Crime Severity Score (CSS) which uses police recorded data and custody, community order or fine rate to calculate a severity weighting.

The graph shows the CSS levels of a range of serious violence offense as defined by ONS. The comparison shows offences from York, North Yorkshire, and England & Wales.

As can be seen, both York and North Yorkshire have much lower crime severity levels than the national average. York and North Yorkshire follow similar trends to one another; however, York has slightly higher crime severity levels.

The graph does show an increase in crime severity levels over time; however, this is not against the national trend and so it is not cause for concern.

Despite this, the number of police recorded offences and the lower average of crime severity levels shown in the graph supports that North Yorkshire and York can focus on prevention and early intervention approach.

5.0 Local Priorities

The local priorities have been chosen following consideration of the findings from the Strategic Needs Assessment and reflect the key issues surrounding serious violence within York and North Yorkshire.

The findings from both the Serious Violence Survey and the VAWG survey were also taken into consideration throughout the consultation process.

Several priorities will be a focus across the whole of York and North Yorkshire, however there will be some that reflect the separate risk factors found within certain areas. These priorities again have been found due to analysis of data from within the SNA, which has highlighted that different localities present different areas of need.

Separating out the sub-priorities, will enable a more focused approach on specific priorities, ensuring the initiatives and funding is utilised in the most effective way.

The priorities have also been set out to reflect target cohorts, for example 18–24-year-olds, to again ensure that the prevention and early intervention approach is focused on the correct groups of people.

Alongside findings from the SNA, the Serious Violence Duty Working Group have consulted one another to discuss and finalise the selection of the priorities to ensure best practice across all areas of prevention and early intervention.

To support our aim of delivering effective interventions, as a partnership we wanted to ensure our priorities were relative and supported the needs of our communities. The North Yorkshire Youth Commission (NYYC) enables young people to inform, support and challenge the work of the PFCC and partners.

Our priorities and interventions were reviewed by the NYYC, in which we received positive feedback from young people such as ‘the importance of prevention rather than protection’ and finding certain interventions ‘eye opening’.

5.1 Local Priorities Table

| | Location | Priority 1: Awareness Raising and Public Perception | Priority 2: Children and Young People – Under 18 & School Age Children | Priority 3: Possession and Use of Weapons | Priority 4: Alcohol, Violence and Night-time Economy (NTE) | Priority 5: Violence Against Women and Girls & Serious Sexual Offences |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Prevention and Early Intervention Approach | North Yorkshire and York | Priority 1a: Raise awareness of preventative approach and low risk in North Yorkshire and York, to improve public confidence | Priority 2a: Reduce the number of young people as victims of serious violence | Priority 3a: Reduce possession and use of weapons, with a focus on young people (18–24-year-olds) | Priority 4a: Reduce alcohol related violence, linked to the night-time economy. | Priority 5a: Reduce domestic abuse offences, particularly within Scarborough, York, and Selby |
| | | Priority 1b: Raise awareness of support services | Priority 2b: Focus on Children & young people who are/or at risk of being suspended, excluded, and persistently absent by improving attachment and trauma awareness in schools. | | | |
| | | | Develop relational behaviour policies and focus on personalised and strengths-based re-integration planning | | | |
| | North Yorkshire | | Priority 2c: Opportunities for alternative education to prevent exclusions, suspension, and persistent absence | Priority 3c: Increase knowledge of weapon hotspots and habitual weapon carriers, particularly within Scarborough | | Priority 5b: Reduce rape and serious sexual offending in North Yorkshire |
| York | | | | | Priority 5c: Reduce sexual offences linked to the night-time economy in York | |

5.1.1 Strategic Priorities and Intervention Rationale

Our Strategic Needs Assessment of Serious Violence (SV) found...

57% of our survey respondents **didn't know how to access SV services**
1 in 2 are **worried about serious violence**

93% of York's children linked to a SV offence had been **persistently absent from school**

62% of children across the county linked to an SV offence were eligible for **free school meals**

83% of children in North Yorkshire cautioned or sentenced for an offence had been **suspended** from school

35% rise in **weapon possession offences** in North Yorkshire in the year to March 2023.

5% rise in **weapon possession offences** in York by comparison

Half of North Yorkshire's **violent offences** were linked to **substance and alcohol misuse**

43% of **GBH offences** in North Yorkshire were attributed to alcohol; 37% in York

9% rise in **serious sexual offences** in York

11% rise in **rape offences** in North Yorkshire

Nearly 1 in 4 **rape victims** in York were **under 18**

So we prioritised...

1 Awareness Raising and Public Perception



- Raise awareness of preventative approach
- Raise awareness of SV support services

2 Children and Young People



- Reduce the number of young people who are victims of SV
- Support students at risk of suspension, exclusion, truancy
- Alternative education opportunities to prevent exclusion

3 Possession and Use of Weapons



- Reduce possession use among youth
- Understand weapon hotspots and carriers in North Yorkshire

4 Alcohol, Violence and Night-time Economy



- Reduce alcohol-related violence linked to the night time economy

5 Violence Against Women and Girls



- Reduce domestic abuse, particularly in Scarborough, Selby and York
- Reduce rape and serious sexual offences in North Yorkshire
- Reduce sexual violence linked to nightlife in York

How will we do this?

All SVD Grant-funded interventions and projects set out below reflect our aim to raise awareness and improve public perception of our SV strategy...

1) Emotional Wellbeing Support in Schools - Providing therapeutic support and informal supervision to school staff to aid children's understanding of emotions and reactions

Targeting 20 high-risk young people in 3 North Yorkshire schools

2) Inspire Futures Community Outreach - Engaging 250 young people through mobile youth services in community & school settings across Harrogate

3) York Youth Bus - Continuing an existing mobile youth outreach programme in York with a focus on informal education around serious violence prevention

4) Knife Bin Rollout - Expanding an existing knife disposal programme across York and North Yorkshire to get weapons out of circulation

5) Emergency Bleed Control Kits - Installing 29 emergency bleed control kits throughout York and North Yorkshire

6) Operation Night Safe Selby - Creating safety officer patrols on weekend nights in Selby city centre to identify vulnerability and provide safe spaces

7) Operation Reach - Boosting police presence on peak nights in York and using social media for public reporting of potential crimes

8) Snickleway Lighting - Installing lights in alleyways and passages in York prone to criminal activity to improve public safety

9) Why did you do that? - Creating a film to raise awareness of cultural harms victims and violence against BAME women & girls

10) She Was Walking Home - Theatre workshops in schools exploring harassment and abuse against women based on real testimonies

11) Grassroots Youth Work (Project name TBC) - On-the-ground community support for vulnerable young women and girls involved in crime and anti-social behaviour in Scarborough

5.2 Local Priorities Rationale

Priority 1: Awareness Raising and Public Perception

Priority 1a: Raise awareness of preventative approach and low risk in North Yorkshire and York, to improve public confidence.

Priority 1b: Raise awareness of support services.

It was found within the Serious Violence (SV) Survey and the VAWG Survey that a large proportion of York and North Yorkshire's population were unaware of the topics surrounding serious violence, and violence against women and girls.

- 57% of those completing the SV Survey said they would not know how to access support services, and 51% were worried about serious violence in their local area.
- 34% of those completing the VAWG Survey were aware of the VAWG Strategy.
- 42% had experienced VAWG and a large majority stated they did not get help from support services.
- In the year to March 2023 there were 7,396 serious violence offences committed within York and North Yorkshire, all with a victim and a perpetrator who we aim to support with easily accessible support services.

In response to this, our aim is to raise awareness of the overall low levels of violence across the county to improve public confidence, and to promote the prevention and early intervention work throughout the area.

For those who are a victim of violence or sit within the risk factors linked to serious violence, we aim to increase awareness of the prevention and early intervention policies and partners linked to these initiatives, so the public can confidently find the support they require.

Priority 2: Children and Young People – Under 18 & School Age Children

Priority 2a: Reduce the number of young people as victims of serious violence.

Priority 2b: Focus on Children & young people who are/or at risk of being suspended, excluded, and persistently absent by improving attachment and trauma awareness in schools.

Develop relational behaviour policies and focus on personalised and strengths-based re-integration planning.

Priority 2c: Opportunities for alternative education to prevent exclusions, suspension, and persistent absence.

As supported by the findings within the SNA, under 18-year-olds were highlighted as being vulnerable to multiple risk factors linked to serious violence, as well as featuring as victims of serious violence within the most violent crime groups.

- 93% of York's children linked to a serious violence offence had been persistently absent and 83% in North Yorkshire.
- 62% of children in York and North Yorkshire, linked to a serious violence offence, were eligible for free school meals.

- 82% of children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had been suspended and 3% in York and 16% in North Yorkshire had been excluded.
- 23% of rape victims in York were under the age of 18.
- 41% of victims of serious sexual assaults in North Yorkshire were under 18 years old.
- Grievous Bodily Harm victims within York featured a high number of young people, equal to all other age groups.

Using prevention and early intervention within this cohort, we aim to break the cycle of violence, supporting those children who have lived experience of the risk factors associated to becoming involved in serious violence.

Through aiming these interventions at school age children, we can create a benchmark for developing targeted and personal support for young people who are most at need from an early age, with the aim that these inventions protect them into adulthood.

Priority 3: Possession and Use of Weapons

Priority 3a: Reduce possession and use of weapons, with a focus on young people (18–24-year-olds).

Priority 3b: Reduce robbery with a knife or bladed article.

Priority 3c: Increase knowledge of weapon hotspots and habitual weapon carriers, particularly within Scarborough.

Possession of weapon offences was the offence group with the largest increase across York and North Yorkshire. Similarly, this has impacted weapon enabled violence which has also seen a significant rise over the past decade. These offences can be fatal, and weapon carrying has become the norm among some groups of young people.

- Weapon possession offences increased by 26% in the year to March 2023, with most of the increase found within North Yorkshire, particularly Scarborough.
- Nationally weapon possession offences increased by 17%, and so the increase found within York and North Yorkshire was 9% higher.
- In the 2022/23-year, 61 robbery offences included the use of a knife or bladed article.
- 18% of those found with a knife or bladed article in the year to March 2023 were under the age of 18, and many offenders were notable younger than that of other crime groups.

Through interventions and continued partnership working through the Duty, and by the continued analysis of police data we aim to reduce the number of those carrying an offence weapon long term.

Prevention and early intervention will be pertinent in allowing young people to gain knowledge of the risks of carrying a weapon, and to stop the cycle of violence before it has begun. In areas where knife carrying is highlighted as a present issue, further work will be conducted to improve knowledge on how we disrupt those already carrying a knife or bladed article.

Priority 4: Alcohol, Violence and Night-time Economy (NTE)

Priority 4a: Reduce alcohol related violence, linked to the night-time economy.

During the completion of the SNA, a recurring theme around serious violence was the influence of alcohol as a precursor to violence. There is a clear link between serious violence, alcohol and the weekend and evening periods.

When locations were looked at, it was clear to see that these offences were grouped in locations where the night-time economy flourishes, such as city centres and close to licensed premises.

In addition to the link to serious violence, alcohol related substance misuse was found to be a risk factor within York and North Yorkshire.

- 50% of North Yorkshire's violent offences were linked to substance misuse, mostly alcohol related. These offences can be associated to the late evening and weekend periods.
- Of the most serious type of assaults (GBH) 43% in North Yorkshire and 37% in York were attributed to alcohol.
- In York, in areas where the night-time economy is prevalent, administering poison offences remain high particularly in young adults.
- There is a higher rate of hospital admissions for substance misuse for 15-24 years olds than the national average; Scarborough and Harrogate had high numbers of alcohol related admissions.

Priority 5: Violence Against Women and Girls

Priority 5a: Reduce domestic abuse offences, particularly within Scarborough, York, and Selby

Priority 5b: Reduce rape and serious sexual offending in North Yorkshire

Priority 5c: Reduce serious sexual offences linked to the night-time economy, in York.

Violence against women and girls remains a high priority topic within York and North Yorkshire, as well as nationally. Offences linked to VAWG are becoming more widely understood and more widely reported.

Findings from the SNA highlighted that domestic related offences were still prevalent; rape and serious sexual offences remained high across York and North Yorkshire.

- Serious sexual offences increased by 9% in the year to March 2023 in York; offences were linked to the night-time economy and the student population.
- North Yorkshire had an increase in rape offences of 11%, most offences feature in Scarborough.
- Scarborough and York had the highest rate of domestic related offences.
- SafeLives research showed that there are 50% more victims of VAWG and domestic related offences who are not known to support services.
- 42% of respondents to the VAWG survey had experienced some form of VAWG.

Through early intervention we can quickly capture those who are at risk of becoming a victim of domestic abuse or are in an abusive relationship and provide those with support to break the cycle of violence.

Work will continue to highlight the importance of reporting domestic, sexual and VAWG offences; VAWG specifically will continue to be a focus through the VAWG strategy in collaboration with our partners, and this will be detailed further in section 7.

6.0 Interventions and Evaluation

The interventions detailed below are the successful projects funded by the Serious Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Fund Grant Programme.

The evidence-based initiatives have been aligned to the priorities chosen by the Working Group, as listed below.

The monitoring and evaluation of the interventions will sit with the Serious Violence Working Group and will be presented formally as part of the annual SNA and Strategy review.

The Working Group will monitor the interventions on a regular basis, to assess the impact and effectiveness of the projects, alongside reviewing data linked to serious violence, to ensure a collaborative approach remains at the forefront.

The interventions will be assessed using Output, Outcome, and Impact Key Indicators -

Output: Measures the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation.

Outcome: Measures the benefits of delivering the outputs.

Impact: Measures the result of an intervention and assesses the extent to which the intervention has delivered its intended outcomes.

6.1 Successful Interventions and Key Indicators

Priority 1: Awareness Raising and Public Perception

This priority will be a focus for all the interventions listed below. We hope, as the Duty, that the creation of the Serious Violence Duty Working Group and the associated work will highlight our commitment to reducing serious violence across our local areas.

We will aim to raise awareness through the continued partnership work and promotion of the funded interventions and will monitor this through another Serious Violence Survey 12 months on from the initial one.

We aim to improve public confidence by showing a reduction in serious violence offences, and in positive impacts from the support being offered to those in our communities.

All projects will reflect this aim to raise awareness and improve public perception.

Output: Number of overall reach of interventions and on-going work of the Serious Violence Duty.

Outcome: Increased number of survey completions, with more positive results of services and support.

Impact: Increased public confidence and a greater feeling of safety among our communities. An overall reduction in serious violence offences.

Priority 2: Children and Young People – Under 18 & School Age Children

1. Emotional Wellbeing Support for Children and Young People at Alternative Provision Secondary Schools

The provider is North Yorkshire Hospice Care / Just B. The project will be focused within Hambleton, Richmondshire and Selby and will run from January 2024 to March 2025.

This project will enable the existing emotional wellbeing support service for vulnerable children and young people in alternative provisions to be provided at two further identified secondary schools, with limited mental health provision.

The service consists of one-to-one emotional wellbeing sessions through a dedicated support worker, using therapeutic, child-centred approaches. The service adopts a holistic approach to support, alongside parents, carers, and school staff, including informal supervision for school staff. The project aims to aid children's understanding of their reactions and support them to manage change and confrontation.

The project will support 20 young people, working in partnership with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership and North Yorkshire Police School Liaison Team to ensure a joined up, targeted approach to the project.

Output: Number of schools, teachers and parents able to provide emotional wellbeing for young people. Number of young people who complete the intervention.

Outcome: Improved mental health and wellbeing through a holistic tailored approach, supporting emotions and behaviour.

Impact: Improved practical advice for schools and young people to reduce aggressive behaviour, improve emotional understanding and prevent future violence.

Improved social skills, school attachment and in turn attendance rates and educational attainment for at risk cohort.

2. Inspire Futures - Harrogate District Inspire

The provider is Inspire Youth Yorkshire (IYY) and will run between January 2024 and March 2025.

The project will cover four elements of delivery; Community provision, Secondary school pop up / drop in, intervention and Primary School intervention through delivery at North Yorkshire Police Crucial Crew.

The community based mobile project will aim to engage with 250 young people across 48-weeks of delivery, including school holidays as appropriate, two nights a week. The project will offer positive activities to engage in, being active or creative including informal education through a full programme of activities in relation to serious violence prevention.

Secondary school-based provision from the mobile youth base, initially to be introduced through school assemblies will offer weekly drop in over break and lunch at each school, to enable those that may not get access to community provision to access informal education on the topic of the week. This will be alongside a referral-based rolling 8 sessions targeted group intervention providing more in depth tailored informal education on serious violence topics, with flexibility to be responsive to local need.

Primary school intervention will be delivered through NYP Crucial Crew to provide a rounded approach to staying safe, raising awareness to or exposure that emphasises on serious violence and the provision in their community and potential secondary school. All elements of the project will run parallel to each other where possible and Inspire Youth will work in partnership with agencies to ensure a joined up, targeted approach to all elements of the project; planning, delivery (including identified locations for mobile provision and educational work) and onward referrals.

Output: Number of young people engaging with the intervention. Number of practitioners becoming an Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC) champion.

Outcome: Understanding the experience of young people and the impact that serious violence can have on young people lives on their education.

Improved consistency in support and educational tools for young people, to promote positive choices.

Impact: Fewer reported incidents of serious violence among children and young people.

3. York Youth Bus

The provider is Inspire Youth Yorkshire (IYY), and the intervention will run from January 2024 to March 2025 in York.

The project has been delivering community-based youth provision from the mobile youth base in target locations within York area, establishing positive relationships with young people and breaking down barriers. YYY want to add value by providing a more robust approach to serious

violence prevention, combining provision, and offering consistency within the communities, using learning to date and to have a more established presence and relationship in the locations.

The community-based youth provision will be open access weekly over 54 weeks for 8–16-year-olds from the mobile youth base. Offering positive activities to engage in, being active or creative including informal education through a full programme of activities in relation to serious violence prevention. Providing a recognised safe space that offers engagement opportunities with trusted adults and enables those young people to engage that are not in education to access this information or awareness.

All elements of the project will run parallel to each other where possible and Inspire Youth will work in partnership with agencies to ensure a joined up, targeted approach to all elements of the project; planning, delivery (including identified locations for mobile provision and educational work) and onward referrals.

Output: Number of young people engaging with the intervention. Number of practitioners becoming an Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC) champion.

Outcome: Understanding the experience of young people and the impact that serious violence can have on young people lives on their education.

Closer working relationship with neighbourhood policing teams, and other partners.

Impact: Fewer reported incidents of serious violence among children and young people.

Priority 3: Possession and Use of Weapons

4. Knife Drop Bin Roll-Out

The project is jointly owned between the Community Safety Hubs and North Yorkshire Police. The initiative will be run countywide between January 2024 and March 2025.

The Knife Bin is an existing 12-month pilot project currently being delivered within Harrogate. The funding is to extend the initiative across York & North Yorkshire, to expand the targeted audience and reduce knife crime on a larger scale.

Following the successful response from the current knife bin after receiving 453 in total since its installation in January, there is evidentially a requirement for knife bins to be widely accessible in more areas. The current gap in the delivery of this project is that the population outside of Harrogate are excluded from utilising the knife bin due to distance and travel. The Knife Drop Bin project aims to serve as a method of primary prevention and early intervention by reducing injuries and violence associated with knife related incidents and crime.

It allows members of the public to properly dispose of knives, bladed articles, or sharp tools in a safe and anonymous way. The correct disposal of these items ensures they are kept out of circulation and ultimately prevents them from falling into criminal hands. The project will be delivered by Community Safety Hubs and North Yorkshire Police within their localities, and they will be responsible for finding a suitable location, carrying out community

engagement/consultation and promotion, as well as the maintenance and emptying of the bin once installed.

Output: Number of Knife Bin's available across the county.

Outcome: Increase in knives and bladed articles properly disposed of. Improved knowledge of the impacts of knife crime for the community.

Impact: Decrease in number of weapon possession offences, and a decrease in weapon-enabled serious violence offences. Reduce demand on services, such as A&E for knife related admissions.

5. Emergency Bleed Control Kits

The applicant is North Yorkshire Council Community Safety, and the project will run throughout North Yorkshire and City of York from January 2024 to January 2025.

This project aims to fund the installation of 29 emergency bleed control kits throughout North Yorkshire and City of York. Currently there are no kits situated in the footprint of North Yorkshire, except in the City of York.

These kits will add value to communities by providing specialist medical equipment to control catastrophic bleeds, predominantly aimed toward knife inflicted injuries but also other emergencies, such as car accidents. These kits aim to provide a form of tertiary prevention by managing an already inflicted injury - to reduce the chances of these injuries proving fatal whilst medical help arrives.

This potentially life-saving equipment can be accessed by any member of the public by calling 999 and gaining the code, to utilise and increase the chances of survival to someone suffering from significant blood loss.

This project will be an extension of the knife drop bin project. The knife bin initiative seeks to be a form of primary prevention by preventing knives from being used in the first instance and reducing knife-enabled crime. In conjunction the bleed control kits would aim to provide a layer of tertiary prevention, by mediating an already inflicted injury and reduce the harmful consequences.

Output: Increased number of Emergency Bleed Control Kits in York, and the introduction of the service in North Yorkshire.

Outcome: Improved knowledge of the impacts of knife crime, and other violence related injuries. Increased awareness of the Knife Bin Rollout throughout our communities.

Impact: Decrease in number of fatal or life changing injuries.

Priority 4: Alcohol, Violence and Night-Time Economy (NTE)

6. Operation Night Safe Selby

The applicant is North Yorkshire Police, on behalf of a wider partnership; the project will run between December 2023 and December 2024 in the Selby area.

Operation Night Safe is a new initiative in Selby Town Centre with visible patrols alongside a safe space and help for anyone who is out in the night-time economy. The initiative will have visible staff in the form of Town Safety Officers, engaging with the public and focusing on early intervention and prevention.

They will be focused on hot spot areas in Selby town which are of concern in relation to VAWG, Serious Assaults and Substance Misuse. They will have access to a safe place to take persons who require assistance and will be trained to signpost individuals to relevant key services if they require them or contact family or friends to assist them in a safe onward journey.

This project aims to address the concerns around violence in the night-time economy in Selby town and violence against women and girls. The staff will engage with the public patrolling hotspot areas, provide a place of safety, and work with partners who can support the operation so that the right people deliver the right intervention at the right time. This initiative fills a gap identified through an Environmental Visual Audit which highlighted vulnerable areas in the town of alleyways, lack of CCTV covering those areas and a concentration of licensed premises which increases the risks of crime and disorder.

The project will work in partnership with local statutory agencies and those businesses involved in the night-time economy to ensure a joined up, targeted approach to project planning, delivery (including identified locations and times of operation) and onward referrals around vulnerability and to address the safer street concerns.

Output: Number of visible patrols in the night-time economy. Number of referrals into safe spaces and key services. Number of practitioners trained in a trauma informed approach.

Outcome: Improved community engagement with safety officers, and improved community unity. Initiation of use of safe spaces.

Impact: Reduction in serious violence and VAWG offences linked to alcohol and substance misuse which will in turn improve the communities feeling of safety.

7. Operation Reach

The provider is North Yorkshire Police, and the intervention will run in York between December 2023 and March 2025.

Operation Reach will be designed to address the current lack of high visibility police presence in the Night-Time Economy (NTE). Officers will provide a holistic approach to early intervention and prevention in the NTE addressing VAWG, Serious Assaults and Substance Misuse alongside engaging with the public by ensuring a visible presence in hotspot areas.

This complements wider work being undertaken by City of York Council in relation to their alcohol behaviour change initiative, and the use of 'micro-hotspots' will also complement the planned environmental improvements.

Planned deployments under Operation Reach will also coincide with known peaks in demand related to the NTE. The project seeks to focus on those who commit crime, and the ethos is to prevent crime from happening in the first place. The operation will operate through a combination of plain clothes and uniformed officers patrolling together to detect and prevent potential offending from occurring in the night-time economy.

The initiative will consist of 20 deployments over 12 months. The second phase of the operation is the launch of targeted social media campaigns which ask the public to 'speak up' if they see a crime taking place or behaviour that is suspicious and report it.

Output: Number of visible patrols in the night-time economy. Number of trauma informed practitioners.

Outcome: Increased knowledge of crime hotspots, and criminal behaviour indicators. Engagement from the public through targeted social media campaigns and the Operation Reach website.

Impact: Prevention and reduction in serious violence and VAWG offences linked to alcohol and substance misuse. Increased reporting directly to officers in relation to suspicious and criminal behaviour.

8. Snickleway Lighting Project

The applicant is York Business Information District and aims to be implemented between April and September 2024.

Project aims to improve and enhance main passageways or 'snickleways' in York to increase activity and support people to be and feel safe. The project will involve installing permanent lighting in eight of York's major snickleways, aiming to prevent and deter criminal activity, improve appearance and public perception, and increase feelings of safety, particularly on dark nights.

The project will also include an educational history-based project, in partnership with the Civic Trust. Project will work with Safer York Business Partnership to link with Operation Reach, to ensure a wider focus on violent crime and in partnership with Safer York Partnership, to ensure a joined-up approach to identification and agreement of locations.

Output: Number of 'snickleways' which are deemed safer due to installed lighting.

Outcome: Improved reporting on Safer Street data, showing less criticisms about public spaces in York City Centre.

Impact: Improved feelings of safety among those in York, particularly during dark nights. Disruption of offender patterns, reducing criminality.

Priority 5: Violence Against Women and Girls

9. Why did you do that?

The provider is Halo, and the intervention will run countywide through January to December 2024.

The project will scope, write, produce, and launch a professional film featuring black and minoritised (BAME) victims of cultural harms. The project will be coproduced with local BAME women survivors aged up to 25 years who have faced cultural violence and abuse.

A North Yorkshire specific film that will be trauma informed about the serious hidden violence and abuse faced in black and minoritised communities by women and girl which is often misunderstood by many professionals.

Halo will work in partnership with the North Yorkshire and York Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) group to ensure the project aligns with the VAWG strategic approach and supports community engagement in priority areas.

Output: Number of services and practitioners engaging with the produced film.

Outcome: Increased awareness and knowledge of cultural harms by victims, families and those who aren't directly impacted.

Impact: Increased confidence from victims to report VAWG offences. To change attitudes and beliefs for future generations to break the cycle of abuse.

10. She Was Walking Home

The applicant is Next Door But One CIC, and the intervention will be run countywide from January 2024 to March 2025.

The project will expand existing performance of 33 real-life testimonies of women living in York, with detailed follow-on workshops that explore language, behaviour, reporting and support, so that the impact is embedded, and the young people and young adults are equipped with the tools needed.

The script has been developed from the direct testimonies of women in York who have experienced harassment and abuse. The project will deliver 10 awareness raising performances and education-based workshops in 10 schools or youth settings across York and North Yorkshire identified by partners, to ensure alignment with wider approaches, including VAWG.

This approach will ensure targeted delivery to specific audiences and supports engagement in priority areas to maximise reach. The project will engage a minimum of 700 young adults across York and North Yorkshire. Each setting will receive a performance, workshop, and follow up engagement (recorded resource of the performance, workshop booklet and student conversation card).

Output: Reach of project across young people and schools.

Outcome: Positive response from young people around their knowledge of VAWG, with an increase in survey responses indicating so.

An increase in reporting of VAWG and Domestic Abuse offences.

Impact: Long term reduction in VAWG and Domestic Abuse offences, and increased convictions of offences.

Improved attitudes and behaviours in young people to inform decision making, breaking the cycle of abuse.

11. *Project name to be confirmed by young people within intervention*

The applicant is St Giles Trust, and the focus will be within Scarborough. The project will run from January 2024 to March 2025.

St Giles will take some of the learning from their existing Liberty Links project to test an approach of grassroots community engagement with young women and girls in Scarborough's highest crime area, enhancing wider work including VAWG strategy, Female Whole Systems Approach, Clear Hold Build and Humber Coast and Vale project.

There are large numbers of vulnerable young people who travel into Castle Ward on a regular basis, at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour and crime. Twice weekly deployments will provide an on the ground presence that can engage with young girls and women in the area reducing their risk of involvement in crime whilst improving community safety overall.

The team will work with individuals to address their personal support needs and with groups to co-produce solutions to the challenges the local community face. The intelligence that will drive deployment locations will be derived from the Scarborough Community Safety Hub and local partners and information disclosed whilst on deployment. Where a higher level of risk has been assessed, workers will offer individual support to that young person which may include support with disclosure, referral into services, assistance with benefits and housing claims.

The project aims for 2,400 engagements with 480 unique individuals during the life of the project. This will include speaking to young women and girls on the streets but also engaging with local business owners and concerned members of the public.

Output: Number of referrals and overall reach of the project.

Outcome: Young people, girls, and women, will be aware of the risks of involvement in crime and be aware of the ways they can avoid involvement through support services.

Impact: A decrease in crimes involving young people, girls, and women.

A decrease in girls and women in vulnerable positions, and a greater understanding of support available through the wider community.

7.0 Alignment to Other Partnerships

Serious violence is a multi-faceted problem, which requires a multi-agency approach to address. North Yorkshire and York already have a range of strategies and partnerships established which address factors linked to serious violence. It is important this Strategy aligns with existing strategies and governance arrangements to ensure all agencies work together effectively to address serious violence and all risk factors associated with it. The key strategies and partnerships include:

Safer York Partnership and North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership

To monitor progress of the Duty, local governance arrangements have been established through North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and Safer York Partnership.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities to create multi-agency partnerships to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment and to reduce re-offending. The world of community safety continually changes and despite significant organisational change, the need for partners to work together is essential.

The strategic plan for North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership aims to identify the national and local influences that affect the agreed priority areas for delivery during 2022-24. A new strategic plan is being developed for launch in 2024. Priority Areas for Delivery:

- Partnership development (link across safeguarding)
- Community safety hubs (operational hubs that support local community safety delivery across North Yorkshire)
- Domestic abuse/ Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Early intervention and prevention (serious and organised crime)
- Hate crime and community cohesion.

Safer York Partnership is also in the process of updating its strategy. This will be the ninth strategy since it was established in 1998. The latest strategy was in November 2023 and the priorities included:

- Keeping City Centre Safe
- Counter Terrorism: Protect, Prepare, Prevent
- Domestic Abuse
- Safer Supported Communities
- Serious Organised Crime: County Lines, Exploitation and Modern Slavery
- Serious Violence

Joint Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership

Whilst the Serious Violence Strategy recognises Violence Against Women and Girls as a priority, the joint Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy was launched in June 2022 and sets out how partners will address VAWG in North Yorkshire and York.

The joint VAWG Strategy also has its own governance arrangements, with bi- annual updates reported to the Commissioner's Strategic VAWG Governance Board, a delivery group and professionals' subgroup which are responsible for delivery of the strategy.

To avoid duplication of this work and governance arrangements, the local Partners response to Violence Against Women and Girls will continue to be led by these existing arrangements. The SVD Working Group and associated governance mechanism will be regularly updated as appropriate, to reflect this delivery under the Serious Violence Duty Strategy VAWG priority.

Local Domestic Abuse Partnerships and Joint Commissioning

Our priority surrounding VAWG has a focus on Domestic Abuse in targeted areas. The Duty recognises that both North Yorkshire and York have existing Local Domestic Abuse Partnerships and so these Partnerships will remain responsible for delivery of the local response to Domestic Abuse. Regular updates will be provided to the Serious Violence Duty Working Group and CSPs for oversight under this Strategy.

The joint North Yorkshire and city of York Domestic Abuse strategy for 2024-28 will detail how the two domestic abuse local partnership boards will work to create an environment where healthy relationships are the norm and where victims and survivors and their children have access to the right support at the right time.

This work will be detailed across 4 strategic priorities:

- Prevention and early identification
- Authentic and inclusive support for all
- Driving change together
- Accountability

The strategy will also cover funding through the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Safe Accommodation Grant.

Serious Organised Crime Partnership

The Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Partnership Board was convened between all statutory partners and a number of non-statutory partners under the Project Alliance banner. Its purpose is to create a system for the disclosure of crime data & information between North Yorkshire Police and all members of the North Yorkshire Police Project Alliance Partnership.

It addresses the threat, risk and harm posed by criminal groups, embedding a sustainable 4P approach in line with the National Strategy.

The Serious Organised Crime Partnership Board convenes on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Deputy Police Fire Crime Commissioner or NYP Head of Crime.

It reports on:

- Performance in the SOC arena on areas including disruptions
- Organised Crime Group mapping and scoring
- Progress against Clear/ Hold/ Build
- Results and judicial outcomes of operational activity.

It will complement the work of the SVD working groups by focusing on SOC, and circulating intelligence requirement which are pertinent to SVD as well as SOC.

North Yorkshire Drug and Alcohol Partnerships

The North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy sets out how partners across North Yorkshire will co-ordinate and deliver action to reduce substance use harms for the North Yorkshire population. It is the first time that key partner organisations have set out collective ambitions and commitments to address substance use across North Yorkshire and updates the Joint Alcohol Strategy (2014-2019).

The North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy is committed to “*reduce harms associated with substance use across North Yorkshire – putting people, health and communities at the centre*”.

The priorities have been highlighted as:

- Drug supply and responsible retailing of alcohol
- Deliver effective support for all people who experience harmful patterns of substance use
- Prevention of use of substances

With partnership action focused on:

- Harm reduction Communications and engagement
- Workforce development
- Research and development
- Protective factors that prevent harmful patterns of substance use, and promote recovery
- Substance use in particular places in North Yorkshire.

The strategy has adopted a public health approach and looks to balance law enforcement responsibilities with compassionate leadership, policy, and practice. This co-ordinated approach directly reflects the work of the Serious Violence Duty, and so working together we can best approach alcohol related violence within the night-time economy.

Women’s Whole System Approach

The Women’s Whole System Approach has been developed to ensure that more women and girls are offered an appropriate gender-specific offer of support. This is aimed at women and girls in rural and isolated areas of the county and seldom heard women.

The Duty will work in partnership with the Women’s Whole System Approach. Our priority on VAWG, will mean there will be overlap in the aims of this strategy and the aims of the Women’s Whole System Approach. Where possible, interventions will be guided from the approach to ensure best practice and delivery of successful interventions.

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships and MACE Strategy

The Children's Safeguarding Partnership undertakes the work formerly of North Yorkshire Children's Trust and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board with the aim to ensure all children in North Yorkshire are safe, happy, healthy, and achieving.

The Children's Safeguarding Partnership includes three statutory safeguarding partners in North Yorkshire: North Yorkshire Council, North Yorkshire Police and Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. In consultation with the relevant agencies, they agreed the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for North Yorkshire as set out in the Children and Social Work Act (2017).

They are also responsible for the Multi Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding (MACE) Strategy 2020-2023. Prioritised under this strategy include:

- Enable Partners and Communities to work together to protect Children and Young People.
- Focus on Prevention and Engagement of Children, Young People, Parents and Carers.
- Strengthen Multi-Agency work in response to children and young people identified as at risk and the targeting and disruption of those who pose a risk of harm and locations of concern.
- Utilise Research, Innovation and Quality Assurance to strengthen practice.

York Safeguarding Children Partnership

The City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP) places a duty on three statutory safeguarding partners (namely: the Local Authority, the Police and the integrated Care Board) within the City of York, to make arrangements to work together, and with other relevant agencies locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. The vision of the partnership is 'for all the children of York to grow up in the safety and to always feel safe'.

As outlined in Working Together (2023) strategy, the CYSCP works with other strategic partnerships such as the Serious Violence Working Group in order to support children, young people and their families within the City of York. Full details here: [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_statutory_guidance.pdf)

The CYSCP supports the work of the Serious Violence Working Group and the priorities within this strategy to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people.

A priority of the CYSCP for 2023/24 is in respect of Child Exploitation and the partnership are strengthening their current adolescent strategy to include serious youth violence as a theme.

Further information about the CYSCP can be found: [Home – CYSCP \(saferchildrenyork.org.uk\)](https://saferchildrenyork.org.uk).

Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (HNY ICB)

The Humber and North Yorkshire ICB has prioritised addressing the health needs of the victims of abuse as part of the current Joint Forward Plan 2023-2028. This aligns with our Priority 5 in which VAWG and Domestic Abuse is a focus.

The ICB will undertake duties in relation to serious violence as a specified authority and work with other specified authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence including sexual violence and domestic abuse. More details can be found in the full strategy: [Joint-Forward-Plan-How-we-will-deliver-our-strategy-from-2023-to-2028.pdf \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#).

This work will include:

- System working to align service response to domestic abuse and sexual safety in healthcare for patients and staff and sign-up to the new Sexual safety in healthcare charter: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/sexual-safety-in-healthcare-organisational-charter/>
- Acting on system-learning for health following Domestic Homicide Reviews
- In North Yorkshire, working with partners from Standing Together against domestic abuse as part of the Crossing Pathways project with IDAS to raise awareness of domestic abuse and response for older people in isolated rural communities.

8.0 Appendix

8.1 Appendix A - Working Group Terms of Reference



Appendix A

8.2 Appendix B - Strategic Needs Assessment



Appendix B

8.3 Appendix C - What are we already doing to address Serious Violence?



Appendix C