

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY &amp; OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 7th September 2021</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Sarah Hayward, Interim Executive Director of Place</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed Cabinet Member, Communities, Safety and Business Recovery</b>
<b>PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:</b>	<b>Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed</b>
<b>PUBLIC/EXEMPT:</b>	<b>Public</b>

### **COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2020-2024**

Delivering for Croydon, ensuring that safety and communities are at the heart of our delivery and map the progress made on the renewal of the Community Safety Strategy.

[Council's priorities](#)

<b>ORIGIN OF ITEM:</b>	The Scrutiny & Overview Committee has a statutory duty to review community safety arrangements in the borough. As part of this duty the Committee is being presented with an opportunity to feed into the development of the forthcoming Community Safety Strategy.
<b>BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:</b>	Having held briefings with the partners involved in the development of the new Community Safety Strategy, the Committee is asked to provide its own comments which will be fed into the final strategy when it is considered later in the year.

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides a strategic overview of the progress and challenges of the Community Safety Strategy and policies that are being worked on.

## **2. SAFER CROYDON PARTNERSHIP**

- 2.1 This report will update on how the portfolio is delivering against the following Corporate Plan themes and objectives;
- Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home;

- People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives;
- Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential

### **3. STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The current Community Safety Strategy runs from 2017 to 2020. The strategy was further extended in 2020 for an additional year and is due to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- 3.2 It is our intention to develop a genuinely collaborative strategy with all parts of Croydon's partnership and communities.
- 3.3 Croydon adopted a public health approach to reducing violence in June 2019 and has since started work to create a violence reduction network and start to implement that approach. The new community safety strategy should seek to cement that approach and seek to take the network to the next level by actively involving a greater number of people and partners in our solutions to reduce violence in the borough.
- 3.4 This means it is intended that the new Community Safety Strategy will refocus on our Public Health approach to Violence Reduction. We will aim to put evidence at the heart of our strategy.
- 3.5 We want to develop a genuinely collaborative approach to bringing the strategy together so that its published partners who've contributed recognise their words and priorities in the work.
- 3.6 We are keen to learn from partners about what methods of communications and engagement are working well for them. Particularly if there are methods that are achieving engagement from groups that are traditionally difficult for institutions to reach out to.
- 3.7 We have reached out and included views and ideas from residents, communities and partners.
- 3.8 We have involved our voluntary sector partners that are involved either directly in violence and safety work, or those who help support people to divert people from crime and violence or support people and communities in its aftermath.
- 3.9 We have worked with a wide range of institutions represented on the Safer Croydon Partnership Board who we expect to take an active role in helping develop the new strategy.

### **4. KEY THEMES**

- 4.1 Taking the findings of the strategic assessment and other sources of evidence we have identified a number of key themes. These include:

- Domestic abuse  
Including how we can better support victims, challenge perpetrators and support them to change, and help people thrive once they've left violence
- Protecting young people from violence and exploitation  
Including ensuring children's voices are heard and reflected in the strategy
- Disproportionality in the criminal justice system  
Some people are treated differently by a range of public institutions, and this can have an impact on how they experience violence
- Resilience, trauma and trust  
Different people have different protective factors, ranging from personal resilience, to trust in other people and organisations, we need to understand how to foster the protective factors in individuals and communities
- A focus on high priority neighbourhoods  
The strategic assessment identified nine priority areas in the borough which the VRN should focus on because they are high in crime, ASB and the causes of crime.

## **5. ENGAGEMENT**

- 5.1 As stated we have worked and engaged with a wide range of institutions represented on the Safer Croydon Partnership Board as well as representatives from all the programme boards which tackle specific themes (Youth Crime Board, Reduce Reoffending Board, Counter Extremism and Prevent Board, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence)
- 5.2 We have also designed two surveys so we could hear the views of local residents on key themes. Both surveys were circulated by the partnership and completed by a range of residents within Croydon.
- 5.3 One survey centred on young People & Crime and was completed by young residents under 18 years old. The purpose of the survey was to identify what areas people felt unsafe in and how we could improve safety in areas. To date we have received over 450 responses.
- 5.4 The second survey focused on safety for women and girls which also identified areas where residents did not feel safe and what would need to take place in order to improve their safety. To date we have received over 1200 responses.

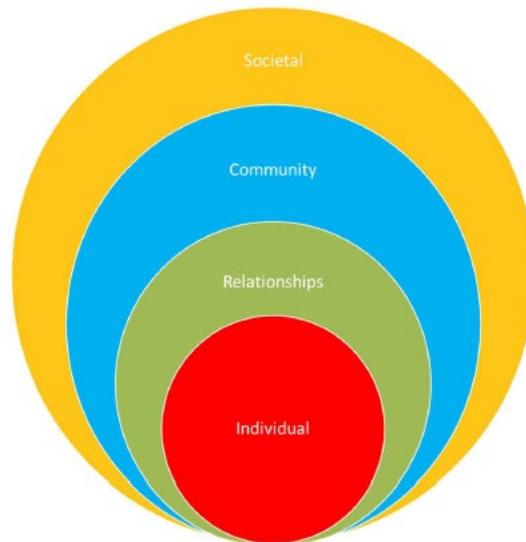
## **6. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 The yearly Strategic Assessment has been used as the main evidence base for the Community Safety Strategy as it has highlighted the key issues we as a partnership need to respond to.

- 6.2 The Strategic Assessment is a yearly analytical product, which gives an overview of the current and long-term issues affecting or likely to affect a specific area or borough.
- 6.3 It is used to make inferences and provide recommendations for prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance priorities as well as the future partnership strategy. It provides direction for the partnership in deploying resources efficiently to reduce crime and ASB in the borough.
- 6.4 As part of the Strategic Assessment recommendations we will construct a yearly performance framework. The actions will be agreed by the partnership and progressed by the relevant programme boards as a way of providing strategic and operational direction for the forthcoming year.
- 6.5 The Strategic Assessment will assist with providing an overall monitoring framework of the crime data and being able to evidence if what we are doing in a specific location is having an impact on crime trends.

## **7. PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH**

- 7.1 It is intended that the new Community Safety Strategy will focus on our Public Health approach to Violence Reduction
- 7.2 The borough's Violence Reduction Network (VRN) has adopted the public health approach in reducing violence. This is also used by the London-wide Violence Reduction Unit which was set up by the Mayor of London in late 2018, who adopted it from Police Scotland where it was first established in 2005 and it was proven to be very effective in reducing violence. The public health approach involves a holistic view of both violence and coercion. It adopts an ecological framework based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels.



### 7.3 The ecological framework of the public health approach:

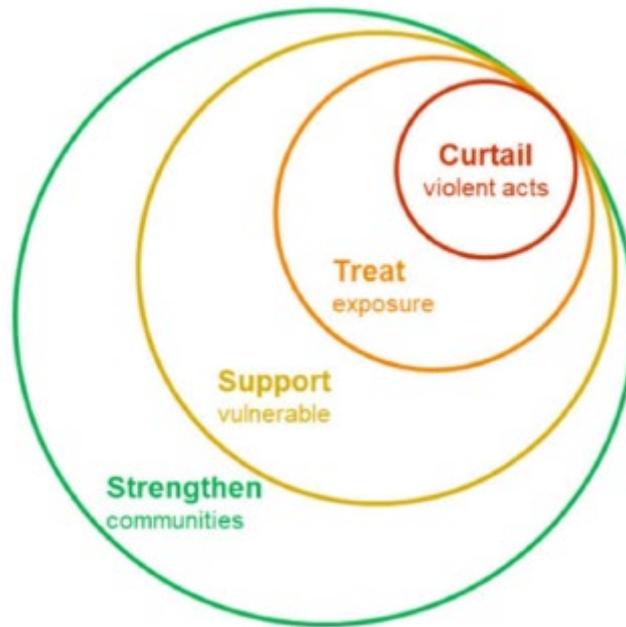
These include economic and social policies that maintain socioeconomic inequalities between people, the availability of weapons, and social and cultural norms such as parental dominance over children and cultural norms that endorse violence as an acceptable method to resolve.

The contexts in which social relationships occur, such as schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces, also influence violence. Risk factors here may include the level of unemployment, population density, mobility and the existence of a local drug or gun trade.

Family, friends, intimate partners and peers may influence the risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. For example, having violent friends may influence whether a young person engages in or becomes a victim of violence.

Personal history and biological factors influence how individuals behave and increase their likelihood of becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence including being a victim of child maltreatment, psychological or personality disorders, alcohol and/or substance abuse.

### 7.4 A more practical way of showing how the VRN adopts this ecological framework in reducing violence is by embedding the following core actions in its approach shown in the figure below as used by Waltham Forest:



- Curtail violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action.
- Treat those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread.
- Support those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors.
- Strengthen community resilience through a universal approach.

7.5 To achieve this there must be a holistic networked approach to tackling violence involving a wide range of relevant partners. It is also vital that data is at the heart of how the VRN and the partnership will operate.

## 8. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER STRATEGIES

- 8.1 There are a number of other strategies and policies across the partnership that contribute towards the Community Safety Strategy and the outcomes of the SCP.
- 8.2 As part of the strategy we will make reference to the relevant strategies and the work that is being undertaken by our partners: both internally and externally which will contribute towards tackling the key themes identified.
- 8.3 There are a number of current strategies within the council that contribute to the key themes such as the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy which will help to develop and improve the work we are doing to build resilience, trauma and trust within the community. It is extremely important that we improve our communication with community groups and the VCS to develop our public health approach and how we work together to better serve our communities.
- 8.4 External partners have developed their own strategies in order to guide their own ways of working. The Met's Direction: Strategy 2018-2025 sets out the

Met's long-term operational priorities. Part of the strategy focuses on what matters most to Londoners which is violent crime such as terrorism, knife and gun crime, sexual offending, hate crime, domestic violence and protecting vulnerable people from predatory behaviour. The themes identified in the strategy are very similar to the key themes, we have developed within Croydon.

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**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

*None*

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** *[Complete for Part A reports only - list documents that have not been published previously]*

*Strategic Assessment 2021*