

Scrutiny & Overview Committee: Violence Reduction Network (VRN)

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Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon &
Communities

25/02/20

VRN- activity overview

- Adopted a high level public health strategy
- Appointed first director and other key staff
- Developed key work including approaches to trauma, analysis, multiagency responses to issues (see report)
- Success at attracting external funding to support our violence reduction priorities (see report)

VRN- key work over the next year

- Align Violence Reduction work and SCP work to provide strong multi-agency leadership and buy in
- Develop our analytical approach to provide strong evidence for our work and outcomes
- Work with partners to develop a whole Croydon approach
- Bring in best practice from elsewhere, and share our successes so others can benefit

Strengths

- Strong multi-agency support for the approach
- Partners including health, police and some VCS orgs developing their own violence reduction approaches
- Strong desire for partners to work together and not duplicate
- Good practice in key areas of work already in place, for example domestic violence and youth practice
- Partner appetite to increase transparency and be more reflective about our priorities, work and outcomes

Weaknesses

- As work is still developing there can be lack of clarity or ambiguity
- The SCP weaknesses around resources will also apply to violence reduction work
- Resources for violence reduction work remains limited and fragile across partners
- The scale of the data/analysis/evidence challenge
- Misconceptions about what a public health approach is and how it will reduce violence

Opportunities

- Significant appetite for a public health approach to violence reduction and therefore good will to the approach from partners
- Croydon's reputation as a leader and innovator in violence reduction work
- New investment in our analytical capacity
- Viewed as a strong partner for external funders

Threats

- Public health solutions are long term and may take time to deliver results
- External focus, trends and fads could impact on the work
- Violent events will still happen while we are implementing and delivering our approach
- The lack of consistent long term funding