

Derby and Derbyshire

Serious Violence

Strategy

2024-2026

Refresh 2025



Derby & Derbyshire
Safer Communities

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Foreword

Serious violence is a growing problem, with incidents increasing across England and Wales since 2014 (UK Government, 2022). It has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear within communities, and has wider costs to society as a whole. Between 2019 and 2024, serious violence increased by 10% in Derby and Derbyshire. In recent years, increased research into the causes of, approaches to, and interventions for, serious violence has led to increased knowledge and new strategies to address the issue. It is a complex problem, with many risk and protective factors, but we can take action to reduce and prevent it.

The Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Government, requires a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence and tackle serious violence through prevention and early intervention. In both Derby City and Derbyshire County we are committed to taking a public health approach to reduce the problem of serious violence by working together across agencies. This approach is led by local evidence, utilising data from numerous sources. Using key information on the types of serious violence, where and when it happens, who the perpetrators and victims are and why it happens, it ensures an informed response to intervention and prevention at all levels.

As part of the Serious Violence Duty, we have developed this strategy which sets out our local multi-agency approach to tackling serious violence. This refresh of the strategy for 2025 is informed by the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment that was completed in the Autumn of 2024.

We are committed to delivering this Serious Violence Strategy to coordinate our multi-agency public health approach and guide our work in all areas. Delivering the strategic objectives set out in this document will be key to achieving a reduction in serious violence and improving lives for all living within Derby and Derbyshire.



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Introduction

The Serious Violence Duty

This strategy provides a framework upon which partners in Derby and Derbyshire can work in a focused, effective and evidenced-based way to tackle serious violence.

In response to the increase in serious violence and knife crime across England and Wales in recent years, the Government introduced their Serious Violence Strategy in 2018 and in areas identified as hotspots for serious violence, announced funding for several Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). Derby and Derbyshire were not identified as a hotspot and did not receive direct government funding for a VRU, however, local partners decided to use the staffing element of funding received from the Government between 2022/23 and 2024/25 to create a small locally led Violence Reduction Unit, which was created in late 2023.

In July 2019 the Government also announced that it would be introducing legislation to create a new Duty on some public bodies, known as specified authorities, to work together to tackle serious violence within their localities.

The specified authorities are – the police, fire and rescue authorities, Integrated Care Boards, local authorities, youth justice teams and probation services.

The Duty, which came into force in January 2023, requires collaboration to understand the local problem, identify the drivers and causes of serious violence, and develop responses that focus on prevention and early intervention as a way of tackling the issue; adopting a public health approach to do so.

In response to the duty, the specified authorities have come together with other relevant partners to commence the work of making the Duty an operational reality within Derby and Derbyshire.

This strategy is an initial framework for Derby and Derbyshire. It serves as a guide for partners to work together to tackle serious violence.

Our Approach

We are adopting a public health approach, which aims to bring together the whole system to identify, understand and address serious violence in our communities. We are developing a range of preventative interventions. These operate at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. The interventions aim to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors. This will result in improving the resilience of individuals, families, and communities.

Key findings from Greater Manchester VRU: why violence is bad for health.

The Greater Manchester VRU (2023) explains why violence is bad for health; violence is a major public health problem, affecting many people's lives through death, injury and harmful effects on health and wellbeing. Violence is strongly related to other socioeconomic inequalities and carries its own financial impact across health services, the criminal justice system, and the wider economy. Because of its complexity, it requires a whole system approach based on four levels of the social ecology framework. This approach addresses both risk and protective factors (WHO 2023) and will:

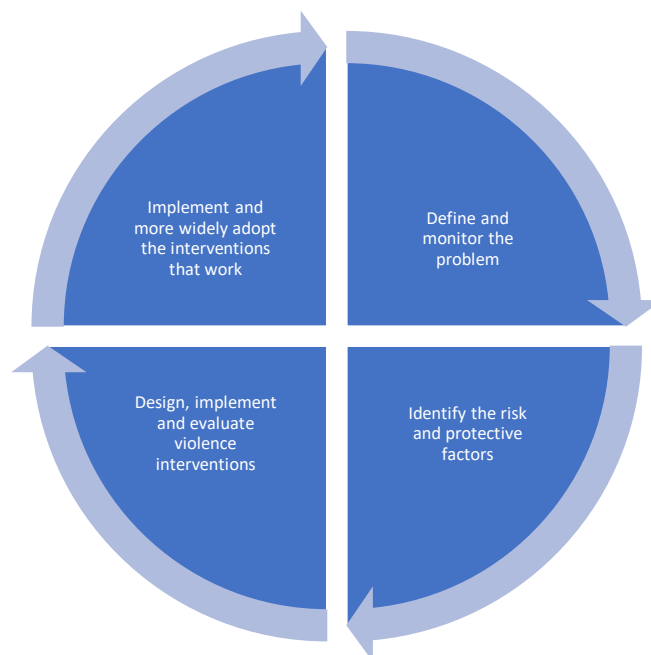
- be inclusive of multi-agency partners.
- consider the needs of the population, rather than the individual.
- target upstream factors with a focus on prevention.

The public health approach seeks to reduce:

- risk factors for a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence.
- violence at a population level.

(WHO, 2023).

The World Health Organisation developed a four-step process for implementing a public health approach to violence reduction:



The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for Derby and Derbyshire has provided a comprehensive summary of the available data to define the scale of the problem of serious violence within Derby and Derbyshire. Partnership data has been utilised to identify the most vulnerable and at-risk populations within the county. Combining this data with that on serious violence allows us to identify and map priority areas for the city and county for increased focus. If funding is made available it will allow the design and implementation of interventions that will be delivered in a tiered intervention approach at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. These in turn will be monitored and evaluated to measure effectiveness, and upscaled where appropriate. Bringing all partners and stakeholders on this journey has created a true multi-agency environment to generate solutions to those problems. We are working to tackle the root causes and prevent serious violence to improve the health of the Derby and Derbyshire population in the long term.

Prevention and Intervention

The 5Cs

Public Health approaches work on the basis that prevention is better than cure (Christmas and Srivastava, 2019). Public Health England developed the 5Cs public health approach to serious violence, which incorporates the essential components of partnership working – community consensus, collaboration, co-production, co-operation, and counter narrative (Bath, 2019). Central to succeeding in this approach is the necessity for partners to work together very closely to prevent serious violence from occurring.



(Bath, 2019)

In Derby and Derbyshire, we will work to the 5Cs model:

We are **collaborating** - serious violence has no single cause or solution, therefore, different partners from across the system must work collaboratively with a shared mission, principles, and priorities.

We are **co-producing** - we are involving communities in shaping our understanding of, and response to, serious violence, thus ensuring we are working with communities not 'doing to' communities. We recognise that this adds to the legitimacy of, and trust in, what we are trying to achieve as well as adding to our capacity to prevent serious violence.

We are **co-operating** - we are sharing data and intelligence and developing a robust and comprehensive data set, drawing on data held across agencies and organisations to inform ongoing analysis of the risk profile of Derby and Derbyshire.

We are creating a **counter-narrative** – we are creating opportunities for children, young people, and adults to pursue alternatives to criminality. We are supporting positive aspirations and promoting alternative pathways and positive role models. We are building on existing community assets that can be used to deliver alternatives to criminality.

We are taking a **community consensus approach**, which lies at the heart of a place-based, multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention. The approach is with and for local communities, it empowers people to actively participate in tackling issues that affect them collectively. We are drawing on the experience and intelligence of local organisations who are already working hard in communities to address the issues affecting them.

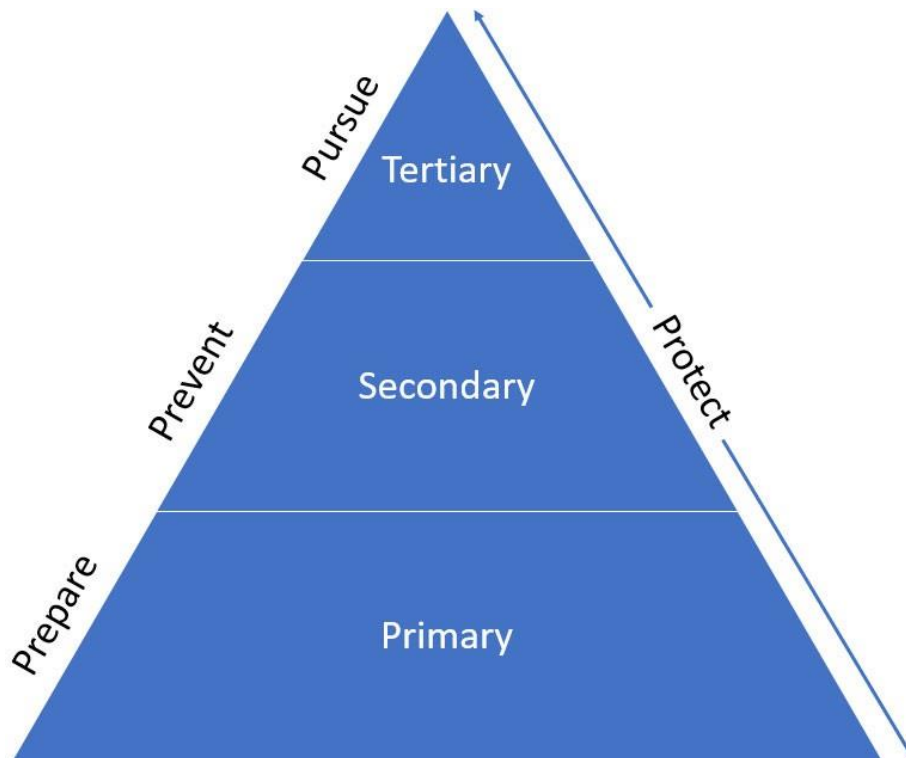
Interventions

Law enforcement has an important role to play in deterring, investigating, enforcing, and using policing powers and tools to keep communities safe. Whilst this will continue, we are also developing a more comprehensive approach that focuses on early intervention - working upstream to prevent serious violence events from occurring in the first place. This can only be achieved within a partnership framework that requires all partners to play their role in intervening early and providing education and diversionary opportunities. Our tiered intervention approach seeks to create opportunities for intervention and diversion - central to this will be the work of partners. This three-tiered approach recognises that there are still opportunities to be preventative after something has happened (Christmas and Srivastava, 2019).

Primary interventions aim to prevent violence before it happens and reduce the number of new cases by changing social norms, creating attitudinal change, and improving community resilience.

Secondary interventions aim to respond to incidents of violence immediately, to decrease prevalence and escalation by focusing on locations where serious violence is perpetrated. It also focuses on identifying those at greater risk of criminality and working with them to reduce the risk of them offending.

Tertiary interventions intervene once serious violence is evident and causing harm. Interventions treat the effects, support victims, and offer opportunities for rehabilitation of offenders.



In our efforts to reduce serious violence and work towards preventing it from happening in the first place, we are implementing high-quality evidence-based interventions, where funding allows. A key element of the public health approach is interpreting and using data skilfully, building up an evidence base to ensure that interventions are designed, delivered, and tailored to be effective (Christmas and Srivastava, 2019). Although there are still some gaps in our evidence base, these will close over time. We are using tools such as the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit to highlight strategies and interventions that are the most likely to be effective in reducing and preventing serious violence, whilst building our own evidence base through robust evaluation of existing and future interventions. However, the challenge that comes with evidencing the impact of longer-term preventative interventions is recognised (Christmas and Srivastava, 2019).

Other approaches to reduce and prevent serious violence (Problem Solving and Contextual Safeguarding)

In addition to the public health approach to reducing and preventing serious violence there are two other complementary evidenced based approaches – the problem-solving approach and contextual safeguarding.

The problem-solving approach is a partnership approach to tackling crime and disorder once it has happened. A holistic understanding of the problem can only be understood through a multi-agency approach. Using the problem-solving approach, a specific problem is identified and then analysed to fully understand the issues. A tailored response is developed, and the effects of the response are later assessed (Davey et al, 2021).

By using a public health model and embedding the 5Cs approach, we are ensuring resource, finance, and focus will not be skewed to 'Pursue'. We are focusing on prevention at primary, secondary and tertiary levels to mitigate against the factors that enable serious violence to prevail. This will enable effective long-term problem solving at the same time as short-term 'Pursue' activity to reduce the immediate threat facing individuals, families, and communities.

In Derby and Derbyshire our work is progressing around serious violence, and we are building on our initial approach to incorporate contextual safeguarding. This provides a framework for assessing and intervening when young people experience, or are at risk of, significant harm within an extra-familial context. Partners come together around a child's multi-agency plan to increase safety and welfare in a range of extra-familial contexts (Davey et al, 2021). Through our Serious Violence Tasking process, led locally by the Police but with partners around the table, we are already starting to identify hot spots and potential perpetrators, ensuring that the appropriate multi-agency response is planned to tackle serious violence in these contexts.

Whilst the public health approach tends to see the best outcomes over the longer term, and problem-solving approaches work best in the short term, contextual safeguarding approaches cover both short and medium term, meaning that on a prevention continuum, benefits can be seen across the whole continuum when combining the three approaches (Davey et al, 2021).

Derby and Derbyshire Definition of Serious Violence

Serious Violence Definition

The Government has given guidance on what crime types should be included within a serious violence definition, but has also given autonomy and flexibility to specified authorities to set their own definition locally, therefore, the definition we are working to is:

"Violence resulting in, or potential to result in, significant injury with or without weapons."

The definition includes crime groups of robbery, violence with injury (Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and above), any offence involving a weapon (including possession of a weapon), and homicide. It does not discriminate by age, meaning these crime types affecting all ages are included.

The definition excludes sexual violence, domestic abuse, modern slavery and human trafficking.

In Derby and Derbyshire there are different strategies and governance structures that exist for crime types such as violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, modern slavery, and children at risk of exploitation, therefore, the definition adopted by Derby and Derbyshire excludes these crime types. However, we acknowledge that serious violence crosscuts with these other crime types. We will, therefore, ensure that our work in this area is closely aligned to the existing strategies and governance structures already in place for these crime types within Derby and Derbyshire.

The National Picture

Nationally, the level of crime has fallen rapidly over the last 20 years - violent crime has seen substantial reductions since its peak in the mid-1990s. Despite this, some serious violent offences have been on the increase since 2014 – homicide, knife crime and gun crime – which typically make up about 1% of crime recorded by the police. While these offences make up only 1% of total crime, they are among the most harmful to society with significant and disproportionate economic, health and societal implications (HMG, 2018).

The Government estimates that the economic cost of all crime to the country per year is £50bn, with homicide, sexual offences, violence and robbery accounting for £36.8bn. Violence where injury is caused as a crime type alone accounts for £15.5bn (Heeks et al, 2018). This is not to mention the huge impact that these crime types can have on individuals, families and communities in ways that are harder to quantify.

The Local Picture

The most recent Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for Serious Violence aimed to answer key research questions, which would in turn form the basis of recommendations on which to refresh this strategy. Those research questions were:

1. What does serious violence look like in Derby and Derbyshire?
2. Where does serious violence occur in Derby and Derbyshire?
3. When does serious violence occur in Derby and Derbyshire?
4. Who is involved in serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire?
5. Why does serious violence occur in Derby and Derbyshire?

Detailed below are the key findings in answer to each of these research questions, taken from partnership quantitative data, from which a conclusion/s can be drawn. Together, these conclusions have informed recommendations and priorities for future work in the City and County to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Background

The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) (2024) described the types and extent of serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire to inform the refresh of this Serious Violence Strategy and our response. The SNA is the second analysis of serious violence within Derby and Derbyshire, providing context to the occurrence of serious violence, where and when it happens, who the perpetrators and victims are and why it happens. This will allow partners involved in the local response to identify people and groups who are most at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of serious violence, and to respond accordingly with a range of evidence-based preventative measures, interventions, and actions.

Aims

The aim of the SNA was to give partners a clear understanding of the issues relating to serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire. Having this clear understanding and evidence base allows partners to appropriately direct funding and resources through a clear response strategy. This aids in tackling the issues and working together to reduce and prevent serious violence in the area.

Scale of the problem

The volume of serious violence is increasing. Whilst the majority of assaults do not involve weapons, there is an increase in those that do. Youth related knife violence; particularly possession of weapons, violence with injury and personal robberies involving a knife are all cause for concern. Links to the night-time economy are evident.

On average over the last five years, 21% of all serious violence offences involved alcohol, drugs, or both, which indicates a link with the night-time economy. Looking at these qualifiers by offence type shows that alcohol plays a strong role in violence with injury offences, with 30% of incidents linked to it.

On average during the last five years, 49% of suspects were aged between 11 and 25 and 26% of suspects were aged 17 and under. The highest percentage of suspects were 15 years of age. Over the last three financial years there has been a slow downward trend for suspects aged 17 and under and 18-25 years, with an upward trend for suspects aged 25+.

Most assaults resulting in admission to hospital did not involve weapons. However, the number of assaults which involve a weapon is increasing year on year.

Possession of weapons offences have seen a steady rise in each of the last three years. However, serious knife violence is not increasing at the same rate as other types of serious violence – this may, in part, reflect the efforts carried out to date to reduce knife crime.

In Derbyshire, possession of knives was the highest crime category for Youth Justice Service clients involved in serious violence. In contrast, in Derby, assault by beating was the highest crime category for Youth Justice Service clients involved in serious violence, followed by possession of knives.

Possession of weapons, robbery of personal property and violence with injury make up 98% of Derby's serious violence crimes and all have seen an increase year on year.

Over the past four years in Derbyshire, possession of weapon offences made up 36% of serious violence, followed closely by violence with injury at 35%, and robbery of personal property at just over a quarter of offences.

When it happens

Most serious violence occurs on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, in the evenings and early hours – indicating clear links to the night-time economy.

The trends for serious violence see a difference for the city and county, reflecting a more active night-time economy in the city, particularly in the mid-week. What is evident though, is a clear link between serious violence and the night-time economy in both areas:

In Derby:

- Serious violence occurs more often between the hours of 2pm and 2am, Sunday to Friday and 2pm and 4am on a Saturday. Across the week the greatest occurrences are between 5pm and 10pm.
- On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, when 51% of knife crime incidents occur, incidents tend to happen between the hours of 4pm and 9pm with odd exceptions later at night/early morning - with the greatest occurrences being between 8pm and 10pm.

In Derbyshire:

- Half of serious violence occurred on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Saturdays experienced the highest volume of serious violence of any day.
- Across the week, serious violence peaked between the hours of 3pm to 4pm; 9pm to 10pm and 11pm to midnight.

The link between East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) attendance for assaults/sexual assault incidents and the Night-Time Economy (NTE) is clear, with increased calls on Friday and Saturday nights through to the early hours of the following mornings.

The majority of assault-related emergency department attendances in Derby arrived between 6pm and 4am. In comparison, data from Chesterfield Royal Hospital shows violent assaults resulting in hospital attendance are more likely to take place in the early evening 6pm – 9pm. This suggests a possible link to an increased trend in earlier 'day drinking'.

Who is involved?

For both serious violence and serious knife violence, the make-up of victims by age group is similar. The peak ages are between 15 and 19, after a sharp rise between the ages of 10 to 14. After plateauing from the mid-20's to mid-30's, it falls thereafter with age. Victims of serious violence aged 12 to 14 have seen the largest volume increase. For serious knife violence, the largest increase was in victims aged 15.

Most suspects and victims of serious violence are male.

The number of female victims of serious violence is increasing.

From crime data, the 15–19-year age band makes up by far the highest number of victims and suspects for both serious violence and knife crime.

There has been a significant increase over the last four years, in the number of 10- to 14-year-olds involved in serious violence. Rates of serious violence plateau between the mid 20's and mid 30's, falling thereafter with age.

The largest volume of serious violence is committed by White British people. Further analysis in Derby indicates there is disproportionate representation of some ethnic groups.

In the large majority of cases of serious violence, victims and offenders were strangers, with approximately 20% being acquaintances, showing that there is some overlap between victims and offenders.

Death following violence comes to men more frequently than to women and to young adult men most frequently of all. The use of weapons in fatal assaults is much more common in men than women.

85% of people involved in serious violence were only involved in one crime.

Where it is happening

Serious violence predominantly occurs in urban areas – where there is a higher concentration of people. Nearly half of serious violence is committed within Derby City. Chesterfield, Erewash, and Amber Valley account for over a quarter of the remaining serious violence. Within these areas, there are particular concentrations around the centres of Derby City, Chesterfield, Long Eaton, Ilkeston, Ripley, and Langley Mill.

These urban centres are more likely to see all the key drivers for serious violence.

There are particular links to the night-time economy. Serious violence in licensed premises accounts for only 5.5% - 6% of all serious violence. However, often, incidents take place outside the licensed premise rather than within it.

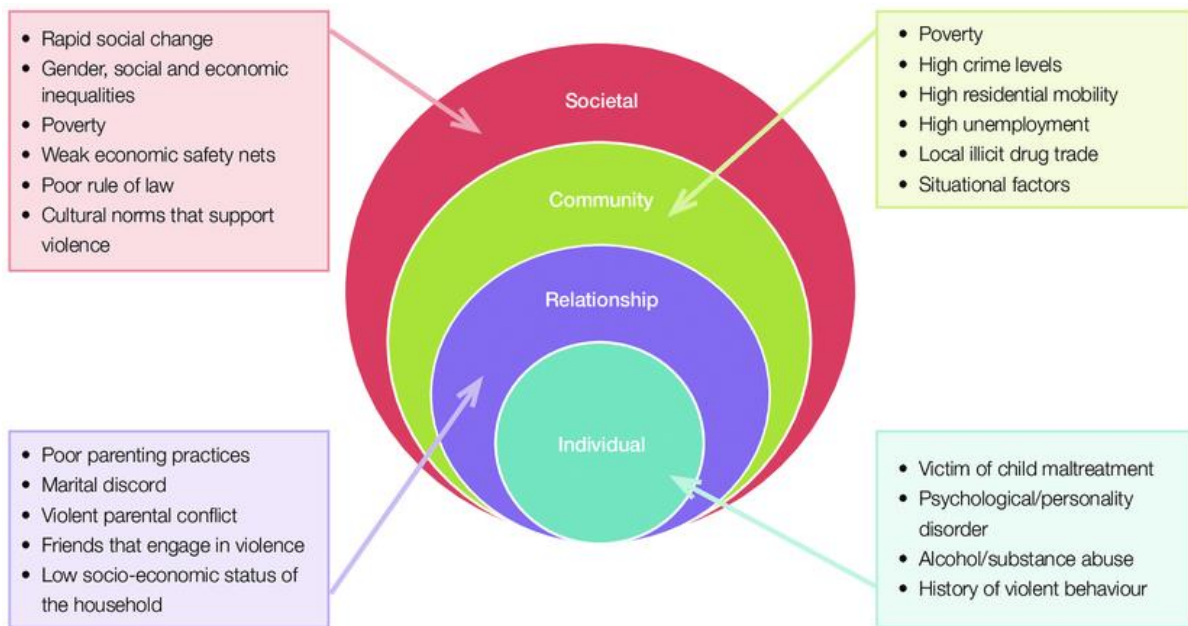
Why?

There are data gaps in considering the causes of serious violence. Therefore, it is difficult to draw conclusions at this stage about why people become involved in serious violence, however, several recommendations can be made about how this data could be improved to gain a better understanding of the issues and how to tackle them.

Initial research suggests that while it is not possible to predict whether a particular individual will commit serious violence, individuals who possess certain risk and driver factors have a greater chance of doing so, and the larger the number of risk and driver factors, the more the likelihood of committing violence. The likelihood of doing so is increased even further when multiple factors are experienced in multiple domains.

Drivers and Risk Factors

Certain risk factors, or vulnerabilities, can increase a person's susceptibility to becoming involved in serious violence, therefore, it is crucial to understand these vulnerabilities to identify and address them. These vulnerabilities rarely occur in isolation, and often there are many interdependencies between them. We have based the Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy on the World Health Organization's ecological framework, shown below, to describe four levels of vulnerability a person can be exposed to which can increase their vulnerability to serious violence (WHO 2023).



Adapted from WHO 2023

Individual

This relates to individual characteristics such as biological gender, age, ethnicity, or disability over which the individual concerned has no control. Risk factors for serious violence at this level include being a victim of child maltreatment, alcohol or substance misuse, or a history of violent behaviour.

Relationship

This relates to factors such as family size, family culture, structure, socio-economic status, employment, livelihoods, and education levels. Risk factors at this level include poor parenting practices, marital discord, violent parental conflict, low socioeconomic household status, or having friends who engage in violence.

Community

This relates to settings in which individuals interact. It includes factors such as educational opportunities, quality of available healthcare and social services, community make up, income generation opportunities, social norms, and behaviours. Risk factors for serious violence at this level include deprivation and poverty, high crime levels, high residential mobility, high unemployment, and local illicit drug trade.

Societal

This relates to the economic or political environment in which an individual, family or community exists and may include issues around stability, infrastructural and service funding, government priorities, and quality of the rule of law. Risk factors at this level include rapid social changes, gender, social and economic inequalities, poverty, weak economic safety nets, poor rule of law, and cultural norms that support violence.

There can also be situational factors which can interact with these different levels. These relate to the question: **what happened yesterday that made a person more or less vulnerable to serious violence today?** Changes in a person’s normal circumstances can take place at any of the four previous levels quickly and in unforeseen ways that can, “overnight”, make them more vulnerable today than they were yesterday.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

Risk factors for serious violence start before birth and continue throughout the life course. Childhood experiences set the foundations for an individual’s cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) describe a range of traumatic events or experiences a child is exposed to while growing up. These can impact an individual’s development; however, many people will have ACEs and experience no adverse impacts. The ACE research focuses on ten specific experiences or events that can have the *biggest* impact – these fall into three basic categories: **abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction** (Bridger, 2019).

WHAT ARE ACEs?

ACEs are stressful events during childhood and include:



ACEs can affect us all

ACE research has described the issues of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance use as having the biggest impact. It has been found that, compared to people with no ACEs, if you have an ACE “score” of four from your childhood, there is a correlation that indicates increased violence, substance use or incarceration. (Ford et al: 2017).

A person with four or more ACEs is 14 times more likely to have been a victim of violence in the last 12 months. The Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2017 (Office for National Statistics, 2017) showed that people who have experienced child abuse or witnessed domestic abuse in childhood are more likely to be abused by a partner in adulthood than those who did not experience abuse or witness violence, particularly in women. Merrick et al (2017) also showed that as ACE scores increase, so too does the risk of adult sexual victimisation. Therefore, addressing the issue of ACEs is not just about reducing the number of people who become offenders but also reducing the number of people who become victims. This shows that by addressing and preventing ACEs and reducing vulnerability at a young age, both ends of the demand spectrum are tackled – the exploited and the exploiter.

Whilst ACEs occur across our society and many people will experience more than one, the prevalence of ACEs varies in different communities, and for specific groups of people. For example, people who have an addiction, such as drugs, alcohol, gambling, and those who are homeless have much greater exposure to childhood adversity than those without addiction. It has been found that children who are in the care system, who attend alternative provision, and those who are in the youth justice system, are all at increased risk of trauma and ACEs. ACEs are also more prevalent where families are poor, isolated, or living in deprived circumstances. However, even when allowing for the effect of deprivation, a relationship between ACEs and poor health and social outcomes remains, with an increasing number of ACEs leading to poorer outcomes (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2023).

Protective Factors

Research has shown that it is equally as important to nurture and build protective factors as it is to address risk factors – it is not only an accumulation of risk factors that increases vulnerability of the individual, but an absence of protective factors (LLR VRN 2020).

Protective factors operate at the same four levels as risk factors - individual, relationship, community and societal.

As young people move through childhood, into adolescence and then into young adulthood, new risk factors will emerge *but* so will opportunities for new protective factors to develop.

Some examples of protective factors at the different levels include:

Individual

- Healthy problem solving
- Emotional regulation skills
- School readiness
- High academic achievement
- Healthy social relationships
- Good communication skills

Relationship

- A stable home environment
- A good relationship between parent and child
- Ability to discuss problems with parents
- Frequent shared activities with parents
- Financial security
- Strong and consistent parenting
- Parent/family use of constructive strategies for coping with problems
- Parents who show an interest in their child's education and friendships

Community

- Membership in peer groups that do not condone anti-social behaviour
- Opportunities for sports and hobbies
- Good housing
- High standards of living
- Safe community environments
- Economic opportunities
- A sense of belonging in the community
- Residents/neighbours who assist each other and view violence as unacceptable
- Positive relationships with teachers, and other caring adults outside the home/family
- Children feeling connected to their school

As work to reduce and prevent Serious Violence has developed, we are gaining a better understanding of the local prevalence of risk and protective factors, enabling work that ensures the whole system commits to creating an environment that nurtures the protective factors as well as reducing the risk factors.

Our Response

Our Vision

*Our vision is that Derby and Derbyshire are places where people can live, work, and visit **without the fear or experience** of serious violence.*

Our Mission

*Our mission is to make Derby and Derbyshire safer together by reducing the **instances, severity and impact** of violence on individuals, families, and communities across the County.*

Our Principles

We will:

*work with commitment and effectiveness within a **partnership framework** to tackle serious violence.*

*take a **place-based approach**, focussing on the local needs and contexts where serious violence takes place.*

***empower and support individuals, families, and communities** to play a role in tackling serious violence by **engaging and co-producing** responses to serious violence.*

*take an **evidence-based approach** to understanding the problem of serious violence and responding to it.*

***shape and strengthen existing structures and services**, recognising that there is already a lot of good work taking place to address serious violence in Derby and Derbyshire.*

*continuously **learn and improve** as we respond to reduce the problem of serious violence.*

Our priorities

For this 2025 refresh of the Serious Violence Strategy, we have reduced the number of priorities to enable more focussed work to develop through our Action Plan, which will be implemented during 2025.

- Community Consensus - Utilise existing local systems, structures, and services to outwork the strategy and subsequent action plans to make our communities safer.
- Community Consensus - Work with communities to further learn and understand the causes and drivers of serious violence and develop interventions and protective factors that address those issues.
- Co-produce - Engagement of young people through the partnership work driven by Derby and Derbyshire's Serious Violence Board.
- Co-produce - Ensure engagement with the voluntary and community sector and the wider community is at the centre of all decision making.
- Co-produce - Listen to the voices of victims and those impacted by serious violence to inform our future strategies and responses.
- Co-produce - Work with suspects and those at risk of perpetrating serious violence to develop the most effective responses.
- Co-produce - Work with our diverse communities and specific groups of seldom heard voices to inform our future strategies and responses.
- Co-operate - Ensure that qualitative data derived from engagement with communities influences our understanding of problems of serious violence.
- Counter Narrative - Tailor interventions to meet local need and expectation.
- Protect - Support victims, families, and communities affected by serious violence.

Our governance

Serious Violence is cross-cutting and links with many other types of crime and disorder. The Derby and Derbyshire thematic community safety structure is made up of eight thematic Boards attended by key partners across the public, community, and voluntary sectors.

The structure is subject to review during 2025, but currently the eight thematic boards are:

- Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (includes Hate Crime and Night-Time Economy)
- Online Harms
- Prevent
- Resettlement, Cohesion, and Integration
- Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation (includes County Lines and Modern Slavery)
- Serious Violence (includes Night-Time Economy)
- Violence Against Women and Girls

The Serious Violence Board is made up of statutory partners (specified authorities under the Serious Violence Duty) and other key partners – it meets quarterly and is chaired by the Director of Public Health at Derbyshire County Council. The Board drives the work of the partnership and is complemented by a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in Derby and Derbyshire.

Recognising the correlation between serious violence and the Night-Time Economy, the Serious Violence Board collaborates with the Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Board as the lead for work to tackle crime and safety issues in the Night-Time Economy.

Members of the Serious Violence Board:

- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
- District and borough community safety partnerships – represented by Chesterfield Borough Council and Erewash Borough Council
- Health – NHS – Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board and East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Prison Service
- Probation
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Derby and Derbyshire Violence Reduction Unit

The Role of Specified and Relevant Authorities

The Serious Violence Duty (Home Office 2022a) and Statutory Guidance (Home Office 2022b) requires specified and relevant authorities in a local area to plan and collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence, with specific guidance for each authority as follows:

Police

The police have a critical role to play and are expected to work in partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area.

- Engage fully with local partnerships, including by establishing and maintaining the use of anonymised information from NHS emergency departments regarding the locations in which people are injured through violence and weapons used.
- Share relevant police data and information to inform the strategic needs assessments.
- Support the development and implementation of a strategy to address the risks identified.
- Facilitate the use of a relevant risk assessment tool.
- Support work to deliver prevention and early intervention activities and explain to partners how their data can help inform this work.

Fire and Rescue Service

Fire and Rescue services have a tradition of engaging with local communities to promote fire safety as well as use of wider models of community and individual engagement to support citizenship, community cohesion and direct support to vulnerable individuals and communities. Work with children and young people, safeguarding and fire reduction strategies, such as the sector's work to reduce deliberate fires, should all be recognised as part of the Duty.

Fire and Rescue Services should be supported to deliver trauma informed interventions, engagement activities and safety education to targeted children and young people which supports the personal development and social and emotional learning of the child to reduce their vulnerability and increase their resilience in line with current practice and evidence of what works to reduce serious violence.

Health (Integrated Care Boards)

ICBs have a key role to play in joining up services within the NHS and across public health, social care, and education. The ICB is specifically subject to the Duty and must collaborate with the other Duty holders in the local area.

In meeting the Duty, ICBs should consider theirs and the Integrated Care Partnerships' existing plans and strategies when developing strategies to reduce serious violence. They should also consider how existing structures and partnerships within the Integrated Care System, could facilitate implementation of the strategy.

- Facilitate the sharing of relevant anonymous health data and information to inform the strategic needs assessments (e.g., number of violent injuries treated within NHS urgent care settings).
- Support the development and implementation of a strategy to identify and mitigate the risks identified and agree an approach to preventing serious violence, managing related health problems, and improving wellbeing/resilience in the community.

The implementation of the strategy may include facilitating appropriate commissioning within the local health system to prevent, treat and manage serious violence. Where possible the ICB should (co)commission support services for those at risk of or involved in serious violence (including from the community and voluntary sector).

Local Authorities

Local Authorities are well placed to complement the work of other agencies and contribute to the prevention and reduction of serious violence by:

- Sharing a range of relevant aggregated data sets for the development of the strategic needs assessments (e.g., data already collected from local schools and social care services).
- Conducting wider preventative work addressing general factors that contribute to risk and vulnerability (e.g., poverty, housing, family challenges, environment).
- Leading on wider commissioning to support prevention and address risk factors or impacts of trauma (e.g., substance misuse services, including alcohol treatment services).
- Providing information on availability/pressures on local resources including housing, community support, children's social care, etc., and
- Effectively commissioning and supporting early intervention initiatives such as Keeping Children Safe in Education which could be required in response to issues concerning child criminal exploitation, gang activity, sexual violence, domestic abuse.

Local Authorities should also be mindful of settings or locations falling within their jurisdiction which may have a specific risk or issue relating to serious violence, particularly when carrying out the strategic needs assessments. This may include residential care facilities for children in care, including secure children's homes, supported accommodation and domestic abuse accommodation-based services. Other public spaces such as parks or ASB areas as locations of vulnerability, should also be considered as these may be areas where specific forms of serious violence are prevalent.

Housing and Homelessness

Local Authorities will be best placed to provide a strategic overview of, and information about, housing and associated issues in the area. Existing requirements under housing legislation should be considered as part of the work to meet the requirements of the Duty. It is essential that this includes recognising and protecting the cohorts most at risk of involvement in serious violence. It is vitally important that housing authorities work together with other services including Youth Justice Services, educational authorities, and national probation services to provide support for victims of serious violence and their household.

Family Support or Early Help

‘Family Support’ or ‘Early Help’, aims to identify vulnerable families and help build their resilience to divert them from crisis and improve their outcomes in the long-term. This approach works to tackle the root causes of a range of problems, including serious violence and offending. Family support will already be delivered in a multi-agency way, so areas should look to utilise these existing partnership arrangements and consider the role of family support services when delivering the Duty.

Youth Justice Services

Youth Justice Services play a critical role as they are well placed to identify children and young people known to relevant agencies and organisations who are likely to be involved in serious violence.

- Engage fully with the relevant local partnership to prevent and tackle serious violence.
- Share relevant aggregated and anonymised data, where practicable, to support the development of the strategic needs assessments (e.g., information on local serious violence hotspots, information on county lines drug dealing networks and wider child criminal exploitation etc.).
- Support publication and implementation of the strategy to address the risks identified, ensuring that children and their interests are fairly represented in such discussions.
- Identify and act to ensure children’s best interests, including safeguarding requirements and reducing vulnerability to criminal exploitation, are kept at the forefront of any strategic planning.
- Advise on appropriate responses to increase levels of safety within the local partnership area and enable children to be able to move beyond their offending behaviour and status.
- Assist in the delivery of prevention and early intervention initiatives where possible and explain to partners how their input can help advance this work.

- Work across local authority areas and organisational boundaries where children are not located in the partnership area (for example, when leaving custody, transitioning from youth to adult custody or in county lines drug dealing cases where children may be far from their home area).

Probation

The Duty applies to a provider of probation services under section 3(6) of the Offender Management Act 2007, who are specified authorities:

- Engage fully with the local partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- Share currently collated and/or published data and information to inform the strategic assessments for the local area (e.g., Offender management quarterly statistics – key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision and/or criminal court statistics – National statistics on cases in the magistrates' courts and Crown Court).
- Use relevant aggregated Risk-Need-Responsivity Data to inform the design and commissioning of interventions aimed at reducing reoffending (The Risk-Need-Responsivity Model).
- Support the development and implementation of the local strategy to address the risks identified.
- Collaborate with local partners to help reduce instances of reoffending amongst violent offenders and protect vulnerable groups (e.g., victims of domestic abuse).

Prisons and the Children and Young People Secure Estate (Youth Custody Authorities)

Prisons and the Children and Young People Secure Estate play an integral role in protecting the public. Prison and youth custody authorities can also request to participate in partnership arrangements and in this event the specified authorities would be required to collaborate with them.

Some of the reasons for specified authorities wishing to engage with prison and/or youth custody authorities include:

- To seek local useful information which may contribute to the local strategic needs assessments.
- To access relevant data to feed into an evidence-based analysis of local causes of serious violence (e.g., anonymised prison data such as types of offences).
- To deliver any actions resulting from the strategy at an individual institution level which have been pre-agreed.

- To assess the effectiveness and outcomes of any actions resulting from the strategy involving or delivered by individual institutions.
- Local partnerships should engage prisons in their area early and regularly throughout the development of the strategy to ensure that:
 - There is a shared understanding about the relationship between the prison and serious violence in the local area.
 - There is an informed view about how partners can support in-prison efforts to reduce violence and rehabilitate people in prison.
 - Communicate the role of prisons in cutting crime and the rehabilitation of people in prison, and work with community partners to develop work in this area.
 - Identify impacts of serious violence within the local community e.g., violence against staffing groups and people within establishments.

Education Authorities

Education providers have a vital role to play in preventing and reducing serious violence by facilitating early intervention, prevention and safeguarding children and young people in their care as a relevant agency within the multi-agency safeguarding arrangement.

Some of the reasons for specified authorities wishing to engage with educational authorities include:

- To seek local useful information which may contribute to the diagnosis of the local strategic needs assessments.
- To better understand the education risk factors for serious violence.
- To include the voice of education providers in discussions on serious violence locally.
- To access relevant data to feed into an evidence-based analysis of local causes of serious violence (e.g., education data relating to attendance, suspension, and exclusion).
- To deliver any actions resulting from the strategy at an individual institution level which have been pre-agreed.
- To assess the effectiveness and outcomes of any actions resulting from the strategy involving or delivered by individual institutions.
- Collectively agree the ways in which the education sector can support the implementation of the strategy to address the local factors that put a child or young person at risk of involvement in serious violence.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

As part of this work the Government announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) by making sure they have a strategy in place to explicitly tackle serious violence.

CSPs will need to be satisfied that the local approach complies with their requirements under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 amendments to prepare and implement a serious violence strategy. Where partnership arrangements span more than one local government area, as they do in Derby and Derbyshire, thought should be given to how variations in need and provision will be reviewed at a more local level – for example through individual local authority scrutiny committees.

The strategic needs assessments prepared by the local area partners can also meet the requirements for a strategic needs assessments relating to serious violence under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; in which case, individual CSPs do not need to carry out separate strategic needs assessments unless they choose to, but they must be satisfied that the partnership strategic needs assessments meet their requirements under the Duty.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has an important part to play as a lead convener for local partner agencies as they are responsible for the totality of policing in their area, as well as services for victims of crime.

Grant funding for specified authorities will be administered, on behalf of the Home Office, by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner.

Our performance and evaluation

Given the nature of the approach we are taking, we anticipate that while there will be short-term progress in addressing serious violence and the associated risks, the main impact of the broader partnership strategy will be realised over a longer timeframe. Therefore, to demonstrate the impact of the work carried out in Derby and Derbyshire, we aspire to create a performance and evaluation framework. This will identify inputs, outputs, and outcomes against which we can measure our progress, make improvements, and prove our successes, whilst recognising the vital importance of robust evaluation procedures; all of which will contribute to the development of a theory of change.

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