

A Public Health Approach To Reducing Violence in Croydon

Executive Summary

The following framework sets out A Public Health Approach to reduce violence in Croydon. It defines a “Public Health Approach”, treating violence like a contagious disease, identifying the cause of the disease, directly treating those affected, providing support so that they can recover and ensuring that everybody knows the steps they can take so that the disease does not spread.

The document is written as a Framework to enable as wide a range of partners and communities to be involved in helping to deliver reductions in violence. It has been developed with the involvement of organisations, schools, health providers, council services, voluntary and community organisations, community representatives, the Croydon Safer Neighbourhood Board, businesses and faith organisations. We have listened to the views of those affected by violence and heard the voices of many young people and families who want to make a difference.

This Framework sets out a definition of Violence for Croydon, based on the definition of domestic abuse **“Controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse. It can be carried out directly, through others, on-line or other digital forms”**.

It covers different types of violence including Hate Crime and Violent Extremism, Violence Against Women and Girls, Female Genital Mutilation, Elder Abuse, youth violence, knife and gun crime, Modern Day Slavery, Honour Based Violence and violence related to alcohol and drug misuse.

There are five key themes that have been developed.

The **First Theme** relates to building a strong evidence base that can be used to predict who, where and why individuals and families are more likely to be involved in violent or aggressive behaviours. It highlights the importance of combining the Contextual Safeguarding, Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Informed approaches as part of a predictive evidence base to address the Continuum of Violence which some individuals and families experience. This will provide a range of partner organisations with an evidence base, enabling them to work together to deliver intervention programmes for the most effective long-term outcomes.

The **Second Theme** focuses on Preventing Violence Before it occurs. It look at the periods and key influences in a persons’ life journey, from pre-birth to adulthood which can increase the risks of becoming involved in violent behaviour and the opportunities when interventions can be most effective. It recommends delivery of a trauma informed approach to schools and early help services and close integration of early intervention services to make best use of the skills that are available to prevent violence occurring.

The **Third Theme** places Community and Voluntary Organisations at the heart of Croydon’s Public Health Approach to Addressing Violence in Croydon. It promotes building on the existing platform of community support, combining skills and enabling voluntary and community organisations to support clients collaboratively. It recommends investing and developing local people who can become a support network in their local area, being both a voice and a connection between those who need help and the services who can provide it.

The **Fourth Theme** sets out the importance of Targeted Interventions, based on clear safeguarding, case management approaches. It uses the principles of a family centred approach aimed at addressing violence, by looking at the wider family and connected family dynamics. It promotes the importance for children, young people and their families who struggle with symptoms of trauma to access targeted provision.

The **final Theme** is Intensive Intervention and Enforcement; providing, co-ordinated multi agency personalised support for those who are motivated to step away from a life of violence. It sets out a clear determination to use the full range of enforcement across all agencies, against those whose behaviour places themselves, those around them, or our communities at risk of harm.

A series of listening events took place over a 12 week period between February and April 2019. The events included all partners, community and voluntary organisations, young people, housing staff and faith organisations.

A number of key priorities emerged from the listening events, priorities that require collaboration across partners and will have the greatest outcome in terms of a long term approach to addressing violence in Croydon. They are also the key priorities that have been consistently voiced at community meetings, with young people and by those directly affected by violence, offenders, victims and families.

The priorities are:-

- **Every person understands the role they can play in reducing violence –** Embedding trauma informed practice across local authority, health, schools, colleges, community and voluntary agencies, business sector and criminal justice agencies.

What difference will this make? Prevention and Reduction in aggressive and violent behaviour, by providing as many people as possible with the awareness of trauma and the simple steps to provide support for those who need help.

- **Developing community-based networks to help those impacted by violence navigate the challenges they face –** Identify and train local people who have influence in their local area to become Community Navigators. Their role is to identify and provide support for young people and families who are at risk of or affected by violence and guide them into support services. This is a tried and tested model in other parts of London and the United Kingdom and has had demonstrable success.

What difference will it make? – Reduction in incidents of violence, and exclusion through the early identification of young people and families at risk of becoming involved in aggressive or violent behaviour, or associated criminal activity including drug markets. It will improve the access to services and support, reduce isolation and have a positive impact on self-esteem.

- **Focusing on the vocabulary of INCLUSION –** Supported by the evidence from the Vulnerable Adolescent Review published in February 2019, there is a priority for Croydon to building a collaborative, partnership approach to inclusion. There is a recognition that partners will need to identify additional resources that can provide an “Inclusion Intervention Offer” in schools and colleges to work with students at risk of exclusion from school to reduce the likelihood of this happening, or as part of work

readiness programme. However, it is vital such an offer is designed now if the borough is to have a long term impact in reducing violence.

What difference will it make? – Reduction in temporary and permanent exclusions. Reduction in violent and aggressive behaviour in and outside of educational settings. Reduction in the number of cases referred to the Fair Access Panel.

- **Recognition of the importance of culture and identity for families and young people** – Understanding the dynamics of Culture and Identity within families has been highlighted by the community and voluntary organisations who provide support across our diverse communities. There is evidence that the challenges of culture and identity are becoming increasingly relevant in terms of violence prevention. This particularly relates to how, when and who delivers interventions and whether the intervention could have an adverse impact in terms of the relationships within the family. It is recommended that Culture and Identity Programmes are developed with voluntary and community sector agencies, working alongside schools and front line services as part of any intervention programme. Understanding culture and identity within family dynamics should be embedded within contextual safeguarding. Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma awareness training for the borough should form part of the screening and assessment process for families and vulnerable adolescents. This will ensure that any intervention is delivered in a way that does not create a division within or destabilise the dynamics of the family.

What difference will it make? – Increase awareness of the relevance of culture and Identity with front line agencies. Improved impact assessment of interventions prior to their delivery, by ensuring that they are appropriate to the dynamics of the family. Increase in the number of successful outcomes of intervention programmes.

- **Social media and violence** – Whilst there is broad consensus that exposure to violent media, including social media, increases the likelihood of aggressive behaviour, the evidence of its impact in terms of acts of violence is less clear. Recent research indicates that media, including social media does not directly cause serious acts of violence, which tends to occur where there are other multiple risk factors which come together at a certain time, in a certain space, and within an individual. This section sets out a series of Prevention and Intervention steps that will improve the awareness of the impact of exposure to violent social media content.

What difference will it make? Increase in the awareness for parents and guardians in relation to the risk of over exposure to social media and the steps they can take to prevent it. Increased awareness of the impact of violent social media and support for frontline practitioners and agencies who are delivering intervention programmes.

- **A collaborative approach - focused on creating leaders not structures** – It is recognised across all sectors that there is a need to combine resources and invite that those have the best skills and knowledge to work collaboratively in delivering the priorities set out in this Framework. The approach will be referred to as the Croydon Violence Reduction Network, encouraging a wide range of people and organisations to become involved. Key to this approach is bringing complementary services, voluntary and community groups together so they can collaborate, in providing the best outcome for clients and maximise funding opportunities.

What difference will it make? Increased outcomes individuals and families at risk of or seeking support away from violent relationships. Greater collaboration across community and voluntary organisations to better use skills and resources, reduce competition and access external funding opportunities through joint bids.

Delivering the Themes and Priorities

The Framework sets out the clear intention to use existing Partnership Boards, Forums and Localities to deliver its themes, priorities and actions, rather than create a new governance structure. A central Violence Reduction Network team it will have the influence and responsibility to ensure that the partnership boards and forums are taking the lead for the themes and delivering the priorities.

The existing Family Justice Centre will be developed to act as a single point of contact for agencies and services to signpost Domestic, Sexual Abuse and Violence clients to the most appropriate support.

Finally the Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction Framework sets out how the Croydon Public Health Approach connects to the London Violence Reduction Unit in terms of its strategic direction and delivery model.

A delivery plan, with clear strategic leads for each priority area will be developed with partner agencies so that implementation of the themes, priorities and actions can be monitored. An annual review will be produced setting out the progress, reflecting on emerging priorities locally, regionally or nationally.

A Public Health Approach to Reducing Violence in Croydon.

Introduction

Croydon Council and the Safer Croydon Partnership has made a long term commitment to tackling violence. There is a strong recognition that violence, particularly serious youth violence and knife crime are not inevitable. They are the result of a set of factors as widespread as they are complex. To solve this we need solutions which look beyond the emergency response. Education, health, policing, justice, youth services, social media, tackling poverty and inequality, employment, supporting families, communities and community organisations are all part of the solution.

This Framework sets out an approach to reducing violence that encourages and enables organisations and citizens across all walks of life to play a part. The Framework looks at all forms of violence including youth violence and knife crime as a Public Health issue.

What is a Public Health Approach to Reducing Violence?

A public health approach to violence looks to: -

- ✓ **Defining the Problem** – Using an evidence based approach that focuses on the underlying issues as well as the impact of violence.
- ✓ **Identify the causes and risk factors** – experiences of violence in early life, seeking a status in society brought on by having no meaningful relationship with a caring adult, lack of money, low self-esteem, low educational attainment combined with living in an environment that gives the impression of no way out and a sense of not belonging. These are all common risk factors which feature in many of the lives of those who suffer violence in Croydon. They are not created by a single incident or single issue but through multiple experiences. If unidentified, unaddressed or if a series of protective factors are not established, the combined, cumulative impact of these risk factors create a cycle or continuum of violence. (Diagram 1)
- ✓ **Design Interventions** - Supporting and treating those who suffer violence, so that they have the ability to recover and achieve their potential.
- ✓ **Increase the scale** - Adopting a preventative approach so that our citizens are aware of the steps in can take so that violence is not part of our society.

Prevention is at the core of a violence reduction approach. It will require a long term commitment from a range of agencies and citizens, to prevent the loss of life and permanent physical and psychological damage that violence can cause in our borough and our society. By adopting a long term public health approach we stand a greater chance to deliver and support families and young people to prevent violence now and for future generations.

In terms of Violent Extremism, particularly those acts that are designed to undermine democracy through acts of terrorism, there is a distinct feature of those who use their grievances to justify their violence where such grievances can be expressed as political, social, financial, familial or cultural. However, they are presented in a way that uses violence and, or the promotion of hatred against other communities as a means of addressing their grievances. Our preventative approach recognises these distinct features and the importance of designing specific interventions to address them.

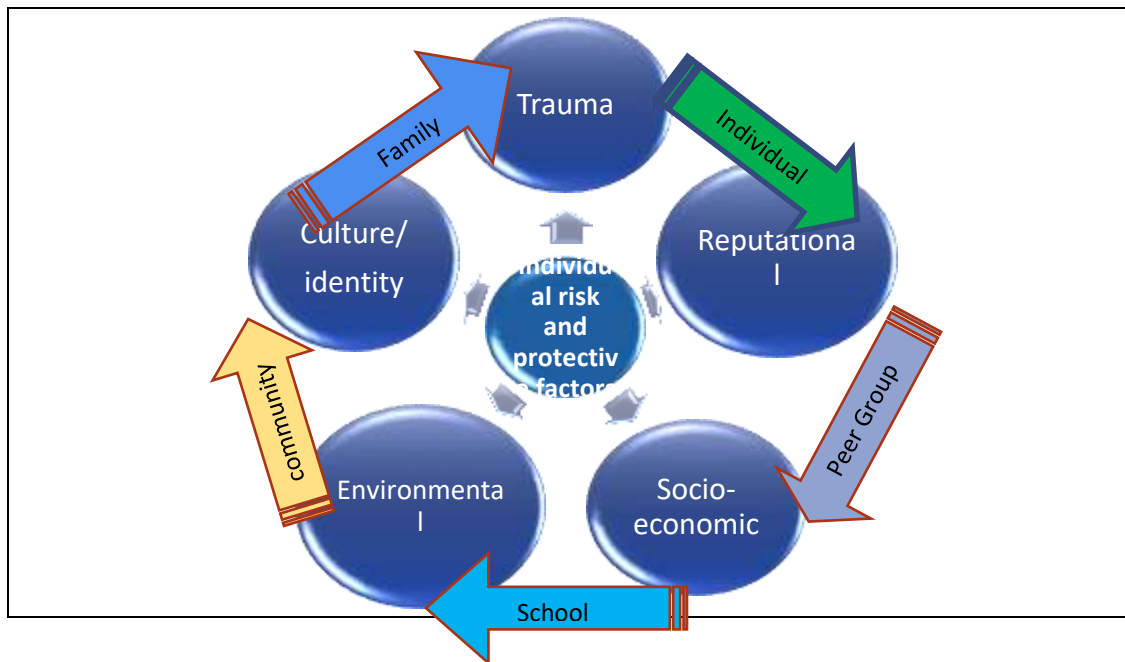


Diagram 1 - (The continuum of violence – Risk and Protective factors)

Tacking Violence – The International Perspective

Violence is a worldwide issue. It effects young children as well as older people and impacts families, communities, organisations and society. Many survive violence but suffer physical, emotional, relationship and health problems for the rest of their lives.

The World Health Organisation sets out 10 key facts related to violence.

| | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------|---|
| FACT 1 | Worldwide violence accounts for 1.4m deaths per year – violence is a significant public health, human rights and human development problem | FACT 2 | 80% of violence related deaths are homicides or suicides – A third of those who die at their own hands is due to injuries inflicted by another person |
| FACT 3 | 90% of death due to violence occur in low and middle-income countries –within countries the highest death rates occur among people living in the poorest communities | FACT 4 | Violence mainly impacts young, economically productive people – For every young person killed by violence and estimated 20-40 receive injuries that require hospital treatment |
| FACT 5 | The Health impact of violence is not limited to physical injury – Children who are victims of violence have a higher risk of alcohol, drug misuse, smoking and high-risk sexual behaviour. | FACT 6 | Violence is preventable and its impact reduced – Violence prevention strategies can address underlying causes such as low levels of education, harsh and inconsistent parenting, concentrated poverty, unemployment and social norms supportive of violence |
| FACT 7 | People can benefit from violence prevention programmes in schools – focused on individual pre-school enrichment programmes (3-5), life skills and social development programmes (6-18), and assisting high risk adolescents and young adults' complete school, high education and vocational training | FACT 8 | Promoting positive nurturing relationships within families can prevent violence – promoting parental involvement throughout the child's life. The development of attachments between high risk youth and caring adults in order to build social skills and provide sustained relationships |
| FACT 9 | Community programmes can play a role in preventing violence | FACT 10 | Societies can prevent violence by reducing risks such as alcohol, guns and economic and gender inequality |

What is the current picture of Violence in Croydon?

Croydon is the second largest borough in London with an overall population of nearly 390,000. It has the largest youth population in the capital with approximately 96,000 people aged 0-19 living in Croydon in 2016. This number is expected to increase to 114,100 by 2026.

The estimated number of 5-19s in the Croydon population was 74,319 in 2016 and is predicted to increase by 14.2% (10,539 children) by 2026.

Net migration data in 2015/16 for the 5-19 population shows 3,624 children entered the population and 4,554 left. This level of 'churn' (11.0%) is due to a combination of several factors including migration but is lower than London (12.7%) for this age group. Providing adequate and timely support to families entering and leaving the borough presents additional challenges for services.

61.9% of the 5-19 population is from a BAME group. The total is expected to rise to 69.5% by 2026.

English is a second language for 9.0% of Croydon 3-15s but this ranges from 2.3% to 18.9% across the wards. This drives demand for interpreting and translation support within schools and services, and the need for culturally appropriate provision.

18.7% of primary school aged children are eligible for and claiming free school meals, higher than the London average. This can be used as an indicator of deprivation, with fewer children receiving free school meals going on to achieve 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or going on to higher education.

There are 35,690 children attending one of Croydon's 96 primary schools and 23,396 children attending one of Croydon's 34 secondary schools or further education colleges. In total there are 68,322 children attending schools and colleges in the borough, but not all of these children will be Croydon residents. Provision of services for this age group have to account for both school and resident populations.

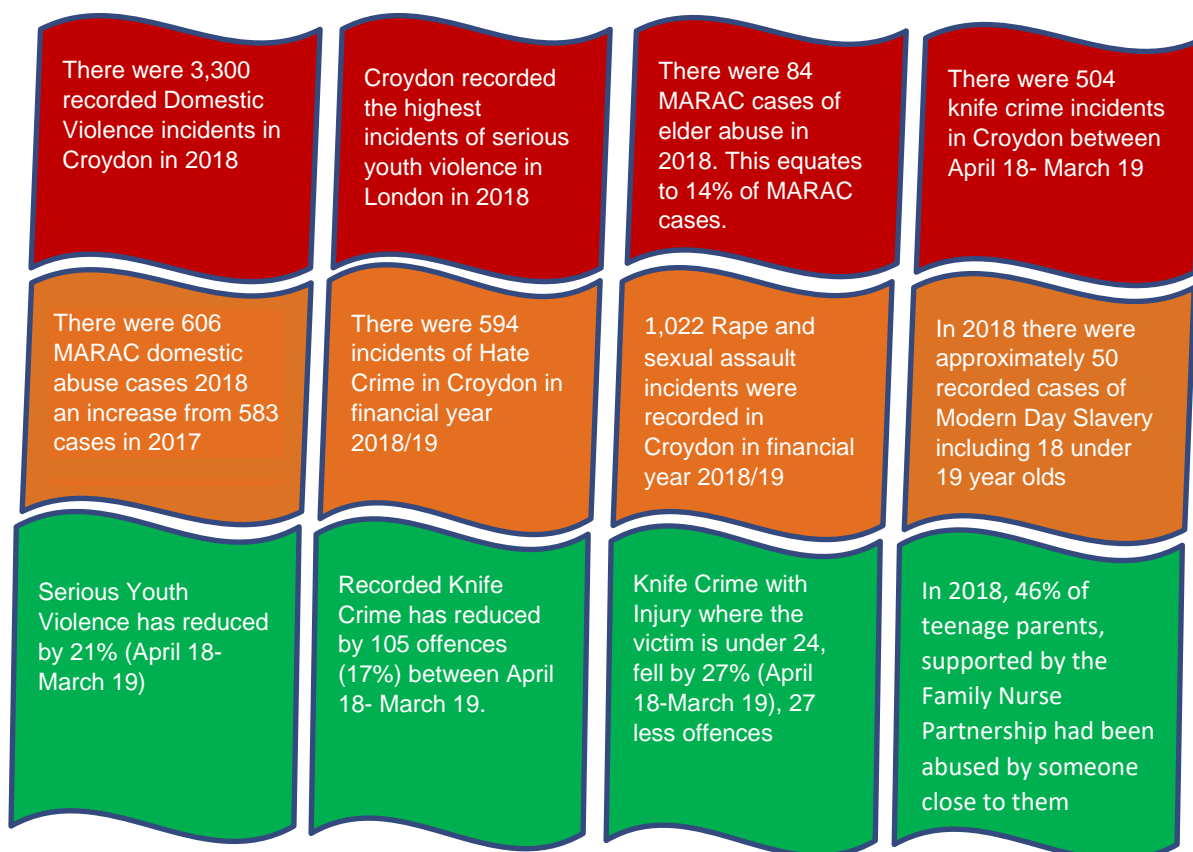
Identifying vulnerable children and young people who are at risk of health inequalities is challenging. Their chances of success are disproportionately low unless they can access appropriate early intervention and support. In Croydon, 18.7% (14,000) of children in Croydon, under 16, live in poverty.

Croydon has high numbers of key vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), looked after children (LAC), and those in the youth justice system. Croydon has over five times the number of UASCs compared to the London average, in part due to the Home Office Immigration Service being located within the borough. (41.3 per 10,000 under 18s in 2017, compared to 7.8 per 10,000 in London).

Croydon has a higher rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system than London and England. There is also a high rate of children aged 10-18 in the Youth Justice System at 8.2 per 1000, significantly worse than 6.2 in London and 4.8 for England.

It is also noted that of the 123 clients accessing the Family Nurse Partnership in Croydon in 2018, 45% don't live with their mother or partner, 46% were abused by someone close to them, 41.9% didn't have a partner and 29.2% reported physical or sexual abuse in the last year.

Key facts



How do we compare to other boroughs?

Compared to other London Boroughs, violence, particularly youth violence and weapon enabled violence in Croydon has been falling at a greater rate in 2018/19 compared to the London average.

Knife Crime with Injury where the victim is under 24 reduced by 27%. Croydon is ranked 9th highest of the 32 London Boroughs. Comparing the rate of offences per 1,000 of residents aged 1-24, Croydon has the 19th highest rate in London with 0.6 offences per 1,000 young people.

Total Knife crime reduced by just under 17% in 2018/19, ranking Croydon 14th highest of the 32 London Boroughs.

Based on the number of young people aged 1-19 living in the borough, Croydon is ranked 17th highest in London for Serious Youth Violence in London with 3.5 offences per 1,000 young people. However, Croydon ranks highest in London for Serious Youth Violence by volume of incidents due to the fact that the borough has one of the highest youth populations in the city (96,000). (Chart 1 Below)

In terms of Violence with Injury excluding Domestic Abuse in 2018, Croydon ranks fifth highest in London in terms of volume (out of 32 boroughs). However, when compared by rate of offence per 1,000 of resident population Croydon ranks 18th (Chart 2 below)

In 2018 the Croydon FJC dealt with 3,283 cases of domestic abuse, a 21% increase compared to 2017. High risk Multi Agency Risk Assessment Cases (MARAC) have also increased from 583 cases in 2017 to 606 cases in 2018.

One of the biggest increases relates to Elder Abuse. Elder Abuse is defined as abuse of an elder person of age 60 or older, in a home environment, including residential and supported living. In 2017 – there were 59 MARAC referrals related to older adults equating to 10% of the total MARAC cases. In 2018 this increased to 84 cases, equating to 14% of the total MARAC referrals for the year, an overall increase of 4%.

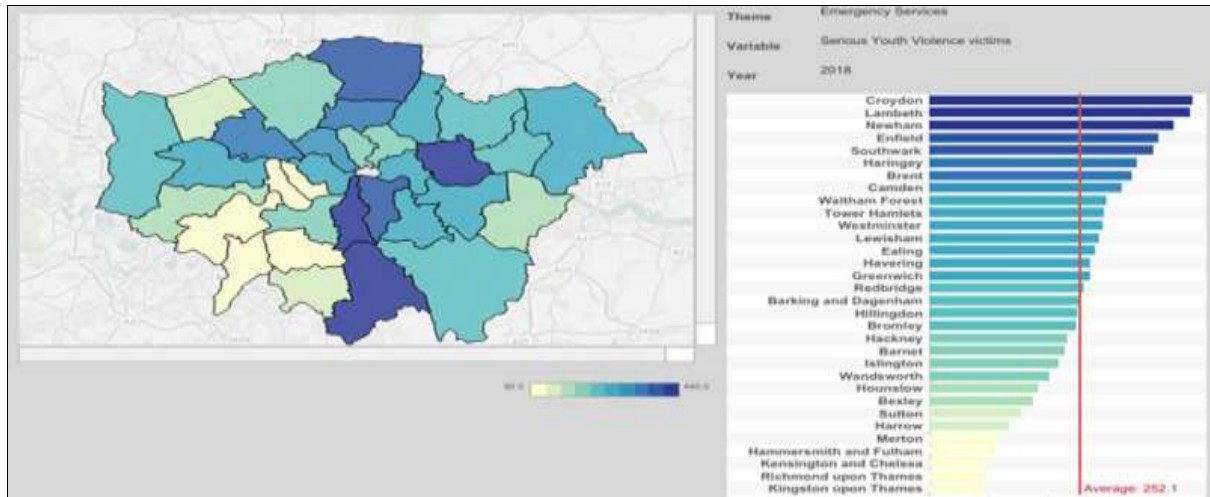
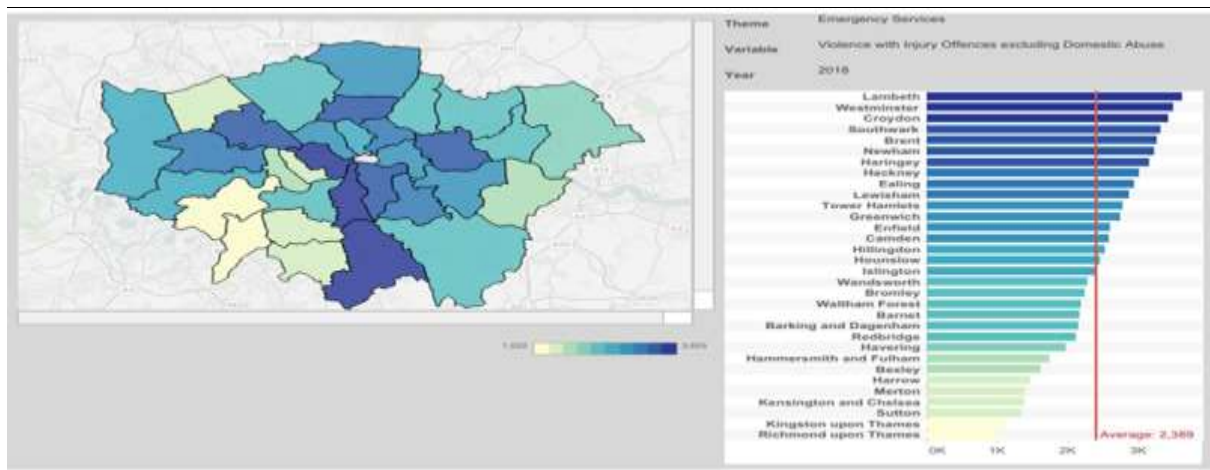


Chart 1 – London Boroughs - Serious Youth Violence

Chart 2 – London Violence with Injury Offences (Excluding Domestic Abuse)



What does our long-term trend of violence look like?

Our ambition is to achieve long term sustainable reductions in violence over a number of years. We know how challenging this is. Violent crime levels have fluctuated significantly over the past 5 years, in Croydon and London.

The following Table 1 and Chart 3 illustrates the fluctuations in terms of Serious Youth Violence, Knife Crime and Violence with Injury (VWI) which is non-Domestic Violence.

Serious Youth Violence, Knife Crime and VWI Non-DA in Croydon - Rates per 1,000 Resident Population

| Croydon | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Year | SYS Offences | Resident Pop. (15 Years) | Rate per 1,000 Residents |
| 2014 | 286 | 97,464 | 4.3 |
| 2015 | 320 | 96,194 | 3.4 |
| 2016 | 386 | 96,194 | 4.0 |
| 2017 | 471 | 96,194 | 5.0 |
| 2018 | 367 | 96,194 | 3.8 |

| Croydon | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Year | Knife Crime Offences | Resident Pop. | Rate per 1,000 Residents |
| 2014 | 481 | 260,817 | 1.2 |
| 2015 | 381 | 279,031 | 1.3 |
| 2016 | 572 | 279,031 | 1.3 |
| 2017 | 647 | 279,031 | 1.7 |
| 2018 | 536 | 279,031 | 1.4 |

| Croydon | | | |
|---------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Year | VWI Non-DA Offences | Resident Pop. | Rate per 1,000 Residents |
| 2014 | 1,973 | 260,817 | 5.5 |
| 2015 | 2,146 | 279,031 | 5.7 |
| 2016 | 2,267 | 279,031 | 6.1 |
| 2017 | 2,213 | 279,031 | 5.8 |
| 2018 | 2,327 | 279,031 | 6.8 |

*Population figures are from 2010 and 2015 from the Greater London Authority Demography Team via the London Datastore.

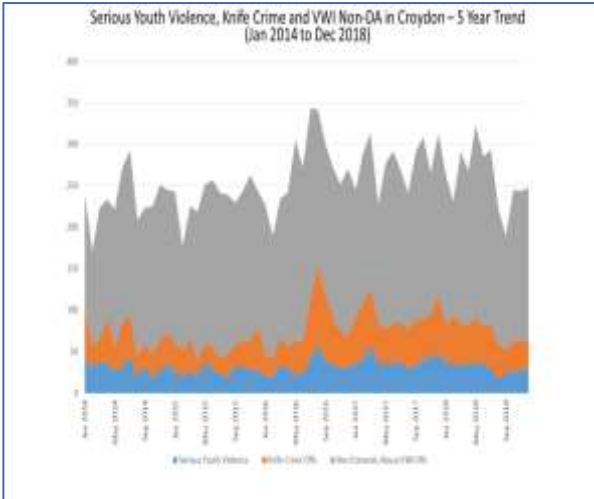


Table 1 – Serious Youth Violence, Knife Crime and Violence with Injury (Excluding Domestic Abuse) by volume and rate per 1,000 population.

Chart 3 - Serious Youth Violence, Knife Crime and Violence with Injury (Excluding Domestic Abuse) by volume 5-year trend.

There is a similar fluctuation across London, particularly in relation to knife crime which has continuously risen since January 2016. As Chart 4 illustrates, recent reductions in Croydon in terms of Knife Offences, means the borough is currently below the London Average.

Serious Youth Violence and Non- Domestic Violence with Injury cases remain at a high rate in London in December 2018 than they were in January 2014. (Charts 5 and 6) It is also worth noting that the period between May-September, in every year between 2014 and 2018, sees the highest spike in violence with injury offences. This trend is evident in Croydon and across the capital.

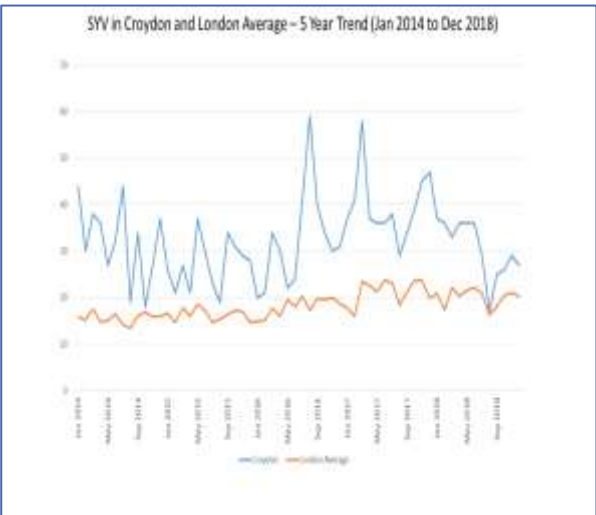
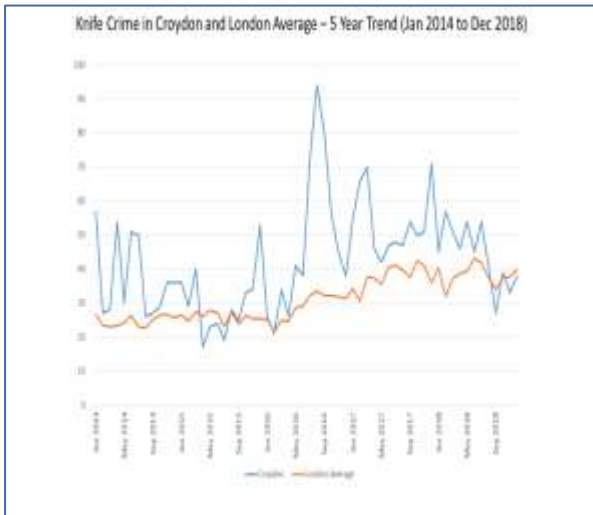


Chart 4 – Knife Crime in Croydon and London Average – 5-year trend (Jan 14- Dec 18)

Chart 5 – Serious Youth Violence in Croydon and London Average – 5-year trend (Jan 14- Dec 18)

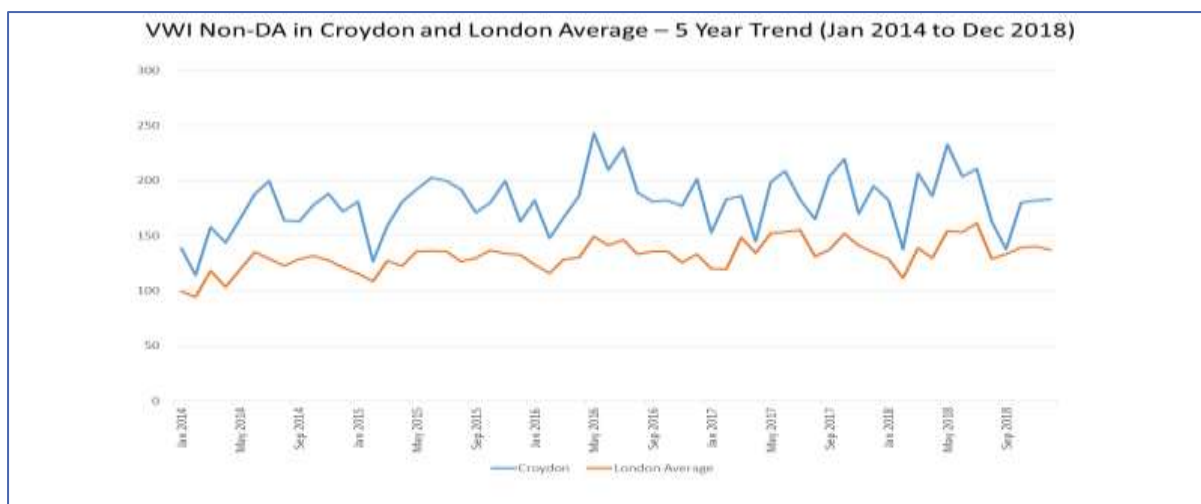


Chart 6 – Violence with Injury (excl Domestic Abuse) in Croydon and London Average 5-year trend (Jan 14- Dec 18)

Findings from the Vulnerable Adolescents Review

In 2017/18, the Children’s Safeguarding Board undertook a thematic review of 60 vulnerable adolescents with poor outcomes or who were of considerable concern. The review included a detailed analysis of their history, their family backgrounds, gathered from a wide range of agencies who had had an interaction in their lives. These findings have influenced and been reflected in the themes and priorities for Croydon’s approach to Violence Reduction as set out below.

| Key Facts | Key Findings |
|--|---|
| Over 50% of the cases were known to Social Care by the time the young person was aged 5. | Finding 1 – Early Help and Prevention is critical. – There are windows of opportunity to intervene in Children’s lives (to safeguarding them from exploitation/harm or reduce offending behaviour) but the limited range and availability of preventative services means these opportunities are missed. |
| 42 of the 60 Children were referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. There was no mental health diagnosis in 43% of referrals | Finding 2 – Greater recognition to children’s emotional health and wellbeing is needed – The emotional wellbeing of children was the most significant factor that influenced their behaviour and outcomes. |
| In 42% of cases, domestic abuse was prevalent | |
| 28% of families lived in temporary accommodation | Finding 3 – An integrated whole systems approach is needed across agencies, communities and families – Children’s and adults needs are viewed separately and presenting issues are reacted by crisis intervention. There is a need to embrace family, kinship and communities. |
| In 72% of cases, the Parental Father was absent in the family home | |
| 19 of the 60 children had been fixed term exclusion in Primary School. In 85% of cases the reason for exclusion was physical assault | Finding 4 – Schools should be at the heart of multi-agency intervention – Schools are placed at the very heart of multi-agency provision |
| All 19 children who received a fixed term exclusion in primary school received a criminal conviction in later adolescence. | |
| There was a disproportionate number of Black Caribbean and White and Black Caribbean boys and girls in the cohort | Finding 5 – Disproportionality, linked to ethnicity, gender and deprivation requires attention and action – Children from a Black Caribbean and White and Black Caribbean heritage were over represented, as were children whose circumstances rated highly on the deprivation indices. |

Our definition of violence

We know that violence is an intergenerational issue. Lived experiences of violence, loss, bereavement, bullying, from an early age, have a defining impact in later life. As well as the increased health related problems, those who suffer violence are more likely to experience relationship violence in later life.

Croydon recognises the importance of defining violence in all its forms. Therefore, our definition of violence in Croydon is based on how we define domestic abuse. It includes: -

“Controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse. It can be carried out directly, through others, on -line or other digital forms”

We will place the learning from the Croydon FJC at the core of our approach, expanding their skills and knowledge across other type of violence which impacts our society.

The categories of violence includes: -



Diagram 2 – Croydon Violence Reduction Approach – categories of violence

The Croydon Approach to Addressing Violence Our Framework and priorities

The following section sets out a framework for the Safer Croydon Partnership to enable the borough to deliver a long term violence reduction approach.

The framework that is set out below is based on the Contextual Safeguarding approach adopted in Croydon. Contextual Safeguarding looks at how the person, the home, the family, peers, school and the neighbourhood, can each play a key role in the risk factors for a young person in keeping them safe.

The Croydon Violence Reduction Framework comprises of 5 key themes. Each theme is of equal importance to delivering long term reductions of violence that we aim to achieve for the borough.

We know that to be successful in reducing violence we will need to take a long-term approach. However, there are a number of cross cutting priorities that we need to start to deliver, building on the foundations that already exist. This section also sets out those priorities and the actions we need to take to deliver them.

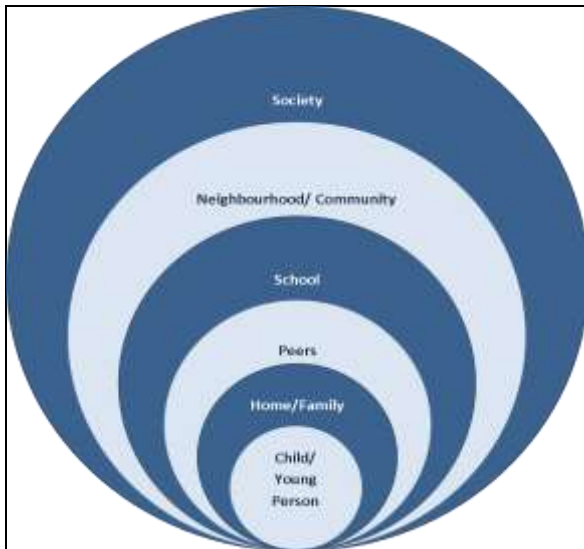


Diagram 3 – Contextual Safeguarding Approach



Diagram 4 – Adverse Childhood Experiences

The Violence Reduction Approach connection to other borough priorities



Diagram 5 – Current Strategies and Reviews related to Violence Reduction

The Croydon Violence Reduction Approach is one of a number of strategic ambitions for the borough over the next ten years. These ambitions have a shared aim to provide support for those at risk and who are vulnerable, so that they can achieve their potential.

Theme 1 – Using Data to drive our approach

AIMS

- To reduce Serious Youth Violence, Knife Offences and Non-Domestic Violence with Injury offences in Croydon to below the London average – December 2021
- To develop an evidence based analysis of the causes of violence to ensure our multi agency intervention programmes are most effective – Starting July 2019.

Gathering data that can identify existing and new trends is core to prevention and changing outcomes long term.

By data we do not solely mean crime data. We need to understand what the underlying causes are that leads to a person becoming involved in violence. Those causes can often date back to early childhood experiences, family breakdown, bereavement, physical, verbal or sexual abuse, substance abuse, mental illness or incarceration. These are often referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences. For some children they experience multiple adverse experiences, which are repeated in early childhood and adolescence. Where appropriate, long-term support is not provided, the young person is at much greater risk of health-related problems, risk taking behaviour and becoming involved in abusive relationships in adolescence and early adulthood. We refer to this as the “**Continuum of Violence**”.

We need to use the data we hold and build on the recommendations of the Croydon Vulnerable Adolescence Review (VAR) to plan our interventions and focus on what works.

Our data needs to identify the changing trends at a local community level so that agencies can apply preventative programmes before violence takes a hold. We need to be able to

identify the factors that hold some people in a cycle of violence and how we can intervene to break that cycle.

Evidence shows that children who experience many Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that cause excessive stress are more likely to develop health-harming and anti-social behaviours, perform poorly in school, be involved in crime, and are ultimately less likely to be a productive member of society. Approximately 9% of children will experience 4 or more ACEs and are at a very much higher risk of experiencing worse outcomes as an adult. Using Adverse Childhood Experiences as an indicator, we need to provide agencies with a common screening tool, which allows them to take the same approach to key risks and protective factors related to violence.

Actions

- ✓ Develop a multi partnership data base from across a broad range of services which can drive our prevention and intervention approaches. This will require a staged approach with stage 1 completed by April 2020.
- ✓ Provide trauma informed training for all agencies delivering services to reduce violence. The training will include Adverse Childhood Experiences, understanding risk and protective factors and how they relate to contextual safeguarding.(Complete by September 2020)
- ✓ Create a simple, Common Screening Tool for use by all agencies delivering preventative and intervention programmes. (Complete by April 2020)

Theme 2 – Preventing Violence Before It Occurs

AIMS

- Early identification of young people and families at risk of becoming involved in violent or aggressive behaviour
- Providing early intervention and support programmes for identified young people and families to prevent at risk behaviour, reduce isolation and increase inclusion and a sense of belonging.

By taking every opportunity to intervene early, we can be more successful in preventing the long-term harm that violence can cause. Using evidence-based data, we have the opportunity to provide support programmes for those young people and young adults who are showing the indications of behaviour that increase their risk of becoming involved in violent relationships in later life.

As highlighted by the key findings from the Croydon Vulnerable Adolescents Review, we know that intervening in the early stages of a person life can have a profound impact. We need to ensure that those working with children from pre-birth to the early years have the knowledge to recognise challenges in the family home and the skills and support to address them. This includes midwives, health visitors, family nurse partnerships and health visitors.

A preventative approach means that we need to take every opportunity to prevent violence in our society, in our homes, with our families, in schools, our neighbourhoods and where we work. We need to use these settings to equip people with the skills to recognise the early signs and provide support that can help address the underlying causes of violence and conflict.

There is a body of evidence, including the findings from the Vulnerable Adolescents Review that highlights periods, or points in time in a person's life journey when the offer of support can be most effective. These fall under two headings (see diagram below): -

- **Points of transition** – There are significant moments which present the greatest opportunity to positively impact in a person’s life. Early Years support 0-1, pre-school to Primary School, the transition between Primary School to Secondary School, the period prior to and post of GCSE’s, the key age period of 19-24 as part of the journey from adolescents to young adulthood. Early intervention means maximising these points of transition at these key times in their lives, providing emotional, social and practical support to overcome them.
- **Points of Influence** – There are significant events in a person’s life which can act as an opportunity for change. Providing youth service support in Hospital Trauma Units to support a victim of a serious violent assault is often described as a “teachable moment”, which if grasped can help a start a journey of change. Points of influence include when a friend or family member is a victim of a violent assault, a bereavement, falling in love, having a child, getting meaningful employment where you feel “YOU” are valued. These events, even the most tragic, can create a desire to change and provide an opportunity to plan with the individual, or in some circumstances a group, the steps to make permanent positive decisions in their lives.

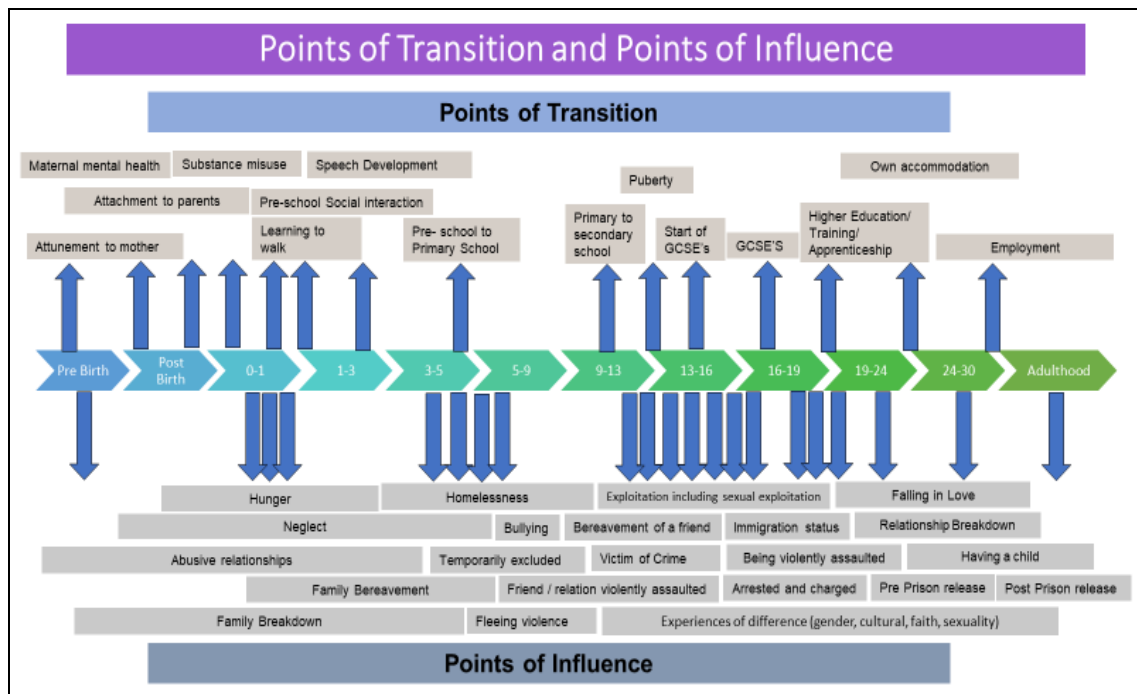


Diagram 6 – Early Intervention – Points of Transition and Points of Influence

We need to recognise the importance of safe places in people’s lives. For those with experiences of violence, that is sadly not always their homes. This is particularly relevant for victims of domestic abuse or elder abuse, including those who are witnesses.

For many young people school is a safe place and provides the environment there they can grow emotionally, socially and academically so that they can reach their full potential. Building preventative programmes within primary and secondary schools and providing support for those young people who are showing the signs behavioural challenges is at the core of our preventative approach. This means working with schools to recognise those signs and to provide a consistent offer of support.

A preventative approach also means providing support at a local community level. Having a range of services which can support families, practically, socially and emotionally is vital. Using the Croydon Localities model, we aim to work with local communities to develop the support that can provide practical help to tackle some of the underlying issues which caused violence to occur.

We also recognise the vital role that our faith communities can play in preventing violence. Attending a church, a mosque or a temple can be one of the few occasions that brings a family or community together on a regular basis. Croydon's vibrant faith sector provides us with an opportunity to help people access support and seek help at an early stage.

Actions

- ✓ Develop a consistent trauma informed, prevention programme in schools and colleges which enables staff to recognise the symptoms adverse experiences and provide early support (complete by April 2021)
- ✓ Review how the learning from the Croydon FJC can support our preventative approach to support other categories of violence such as elder abuse, abusive relationships for teenage parents, Female Genital Mutilation and Modern-Day Slavery.(complete by Sept 2020)
- ✓ Clear alignment of early intervention and prevention services for women and girls who are at risk of violence, so that key support services can be accessed more easily. This includes the alignment of the FJC and Family Nurse Partnership. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Create a clear directory of voluntary and community sector services at a local level that can be provided to schools, support services and partner agencies. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Work with Faith Leaders to provide training and awareness raising regarding violence prevention. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Create a support network through Faith Leaders so that families and individuals can be guided to support services. (complete by Sept 2020).

Theme 3 – Community Based Support

AIMS

- To create a network of skilled, community organisation's working in collaboration to deliver violence reduction intervention programmes
- To build a network of trained, community based people who have influence and can help navigate those who want help into appropriate support.
- For all community and voluntary organisations delivering violence reduction programmes to be trained in trauma informed practice.
- Apply and obtain external funding to strength and sustain the community and voluntary violence reduction provision.

Those who have experience of violence often describe not having people around them who they can talk to and relate with. The normal network of a supportive home environment and the positive interaction of family, friends or an adult network, is not readily available. Yet it is this network of support, someone who you can turn to for help and advice that can have the biggest impact in helping make positive life choices.

Building a network of community based support at a local level, so that those who are experiencing violence can navigate and find pathways that lead away from conflict and violence, is key. By creating local community leaders, or Navigators, providing them with the skills and training to offer support and sign post those they work with to local agencies, we can effect real change.

It is vital that we build on the existing platform of community support, combining skills and enabling voluntary and community organisations to support clients collaboratively.

We can use the wider community and voluntary sector offer in Croydon to provide schools and other agencies with a menu of community-based programmes which they can access, with the knowledge that those services have adopted a consistent and collaborative approach in assessing risk and offering emotional, practical and social support.

The priority for Croydon is to focus our community solutions by investing and developing local people who can become a support network in their local area, being both a voice and a connection between those who need help and the services who can provide it.

Investing in and harnessing the talent and provision that exists in the community and voluntary sector is key to success in Croydon. Being open and transparent in how agencies work, and the standards expected will need to be embedded if organisations at a local level are being asked to share their skills and resources. Therefore, we need to support our lead voluntary sector providers to establish standards that every organisation can aspire to.

Action

The suggested principles of community based solutions for Croydon includes: -

- ✓ Every commissioned service involved in Violence Reduction in Croydon has to commit to training and employing local people as part of its service. That includes the development of service clients who have the potential of becoming advisers, mentors or local role models. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Every worker is trained to understand Acute Childhood Experiences and trauma. (complete by April 2021)
- ✓ We will establish a collaborative approach between voluntary and community organisations, supported by the Violence Reduction Network to seek external funding aimed at the development of local people and local agencies as part of the network. An external funding plan will be developed, led by existing Croydon voluntary sector infrastructure organisations, aimed at accessing long term financial support focused on mentoring, youth development, education, small social enterprises, training and business development for small community and voluntary organisations (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Place service clients at the heart of the community solutions framework. This includes actively seeking those who currently have influence at a street level, working locally to help those affected by violence to make positive choices. Whilst this requires careful planning and monitoring it has been highly successful in other parts of the London and Nationally. (complete by September 2020)
- ✓ Upholding Croydon's track record in delivering projects that use relationship-building and peer-support to directly engage local people in running activities that keep communities healthy and safe. This includes supporting local organisations by taking an asset-based approach that identifies opportunities to build stronger, more resilient communities.(complete by April 2020)

Such an approach will redefine the relationship between those who operate at a street level and want support and the agencies who can provide it. The role of Youth Agencies is a vital component to this approach, particularly if the opportunities can be extended to those who are part of the local community.

Theme 4 - Targeted Interventions

AIMS

- To ensure that there is a co-ordinated, bespoke, multi-agency family-centred programme of support for extended families who are affected by violence.
- To improve the access to key intervention services, reduce delay and increase the outcome in terms of emotional health and wellbeing.

Targeted intervention is based on a clear safeguarding, case management approach. It is not solely focused in on the individuals who are involved in violence but uses the principles of a family centred approach. Our targeted intervention model aims to address violence, by looking at the wider family and connected family dynamics. It supports children, young people and their families who struggle with symptoms of trauma to access targeted provision.

A core element is access to mental health support. This was a key finding from the Vulnerable Adolescent Review which highlighted that emotional wellbeing of children was the most significant factor that influenced their behaviour and outcomes. We will work across health, educational and community organisations so that there is a greater recognition to children's emotional health and wellbeing. We will look to review the current access to mental health support to ensure that clients can get the help at the point of need not the point of crisis.

One of the key findings from the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit was the detailed analysis of the wider family, identifying how relationships across an extended family had an intergenerational impact of ingrained coercive, controlling and violent acts. The analysis highlighted the significance of these family relationships and how reinforced experiences of violence across extended families, resulted in violence being a norm.

We will use this learning and develop it through our existing programmes of support for families, where violence is a feature across generations.

Actions

- ✓ Review the current multi agency risk management panels related to risk and vulnerabilities to reduce duplication and improve the co-ordination of intensive support. (complete by September 2019)
- ✓ Carry out a detailed analysis on key families and connected families to develop a targeted multi-agency intervention programme focused on each aspect of their lives. (complete by June 2020)
- ✓ Working with colleagues in Public Health, CCG, CAHMS, SLAM, schools and the voluntary sector, we will review the current mental health provision in Croydon with the aim to extend local provision and how people can access it, so it is easier and more relevant to the current needs. (complete by September 2020)

Theme 5 – Intensive Intervention and Enforcement

AIMS

- To provide bespoke, specialist mentoring support for identified individuals looking to move away from violence
- To co-ordinate multi agency enforcement action against individuals or families who pose significant risk of violence in our communities.

We know that many of the people who are caught in the cycle of violence, both victims and perpetrators are seeking a way out. We want to ensure that Croydon has highly professional services and support to help those that need it. This includes emotional, practical and social support, so that the decision to move away from violence is not just a short-term success but is a long-term achievement.

High quality intensive intervention needs to be led by high-level trained specialist mentors with the skills to provide support. It will need to include psychological support and access to professional services through a simple referral process. It will need to include social readiness in the forefront of job readiness, so that social skills can be developed.

We will need to review the housing offer, for those fleeing violence and ensure that current schemes, including those where victims or perpetrators are placed in Croydon, are fit for purpose and joint decisions of support can be established prior to a move taking place.

It will be our intention to use enforcement action where the offer of support is refused or rejected and the individual, or group, pursues a behaviour that places them, or those around them, at serious risk of harm.

Our violence reduction approach aims to integrate enforcement action as a key part of its intervention approach. Our intention will be to use the full range of enforcement options available across our partners, recognising the vital role that the wider Borough Command Unit, Central MPS Commands, British Transport Police, National Crime Agency and Ministry of Justice enforcement resources can offer. This includes working with enforcement agencies to address county lines drug markets which have a significant impact in terms of violent conflict local, regionally and nationally.

Action

- ✓ Review the current specialist mentoring provision in the borough with a view to increasing the capacity. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Review the current psychological support, skills and training for specialist mentoring in the borough. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Ensure that there is senior management attendance as key risk management meetings to improve the allocation of resources. (complete by September 2019)
- ✓ Review the range of enforcement interventions that are currently being applied with the aim of maximising the powers available. (complete by September 2019)
- ✓ Work closely with the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre to disrupt and tackling drug markets. (complete by September 2019)
- ✓ Assess the current employment and skills training for those looking to exit lifestyles of violence to ensure that they are fit for purpose. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Carry out a detailed analysis of elder persons abuse to assess where the current gaps of intervention exist (complete by April 2020)

- ✓ Review the current approach to Modern Day Slavery in terms of multi-agency enforcement and support for survivors. (complete by November 2020)
- ✓ Develop the Drive Programme so that it can become a core service offer. (complete by April 2021)
- ✓ Review and streamline the current rehousing approach for “at risk” clients. To include current cross borough referral into Croydon. (complete by November 2019)

Our Cross-Cutting Priorities

Building on the Foundations that have already been laid

The following section sets out the cross-cutting priorities that are key to delivering a public health approach to violence reduction for Croydon. They build on the foundations that already exist in our communities and voluntary sector, the progress made within our educational establishments and the partnership working that is embedded across agencies.

They are the key priorities that have been consistently voiced by local communities, with young people and by those directly affected by violence; offenders, victims and families.

Our ambition is to achieve long term reductions in violence. The cross-cutting priorities, set out below, are key to achieving those sustained reductions and respond to the current challenges that are consistently highlighted by residents, voluntary organisations and services in the borough.

Every person understands the role they can play in reducing violence

Violence does not have to define people, a family, an organisation, a community or a place, but experiences of violence can feel overwhelming, particularly when there are multiple experiences of violence. Seeking support can feel overwhelming, when the people close to you are the ones you feel least able to ask for help. This combination often results in the impact of violence being buried, exploding at a later time and with more devastating, long-term effects.

This challenge is not limited to an individual or a family. Trauma can impact people who live in an area affected by violence, the faith congregation, local clubs, the work place, or even a whole organisation. Recognising this wider impact and providing people with the skills to help others overcome it, even the smallest of acts, can have a significant impact.

By developing a “community” which recognises the simple steps that everyone can take to help support those that suffer from the trauma of violence, we can ALL make a difference.

By changing our approach, we can help people move from being “overwhelmed by”, to “overcoming” their experiences. Our ambition is to create an environment where people across organisations, in our businesses, community and voluntary sector have the skills and knowledge to support those suffering from trauma, helping to refer them to the services where they feel comfortable and which reflects their needs.

What will we do?

- ✓ We will establish a programme that raises awareness of what we can all do to prevent violence by understanding trauma and the simple steps we can all take to address it. (complete November 2019)

- ✓ We will provide specialist training so that there is a network of support in communities, our voluntary sector, schools, business and our public services to help those who suffer from trauma. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ We will establish advisors who can help sign post people to support and help guide them to overcome trauma in their lives. (complete by June 2020)
- ✓ We work with Street Doctors to provide training in schools and at a community level so that people have the skills to treat a gun shot or knife injury before health professionals arrive. (complete by April 2020)

Developing community-based networks to help those impacted by violence navigate the challenges they face.

The World Health Organisation research highlights that building relations between caring adults and those affected by violence, building social skills and provide sustained relationships, can have a profound impact in violence prevention.

We know that local solutions delivered in local areas matter. The Croydon Localities approach provides the ideal opportunity to establish community Navigators, trained individuals who can provide the time and compassion to help people explore routes away from violence and conflict. By working with skills and employment services to support our Navigators we can create readiness for work pathways that improve access to meaningful employment.

Croydon's voluntary and community sector has been highly innovative through its programmes of asset-based community development activities such as early intervention partnership, Best Start and delivering family support. We will aim to build on these programmes, developing the strong relationships and harnessing the existing skills that have been established at a local level, at the core to our approach.

What will we do?

- ✓ We will be ambitious in our plans to establish Croydon Navigators, key people who live a work in local areas who can build positive relationships and help those affected by violence to find pathway so they can reach their potential.(complete by July 2019)
- ✓ We will actively seek people who are willing to take on this role, providing them with training and support, developing the roles into career pathways into education and employment. (complete by September 2019)
- ✓ We will establish work readiness programmes using our existing employment and skills services to provide greater access to meaningful, paid employment. This will include designing and establishing social enterprise schemes delivered through our asset-based community development activities. (complete by December 2020)
- ✓ We will establish youth workers in Croydon University Hospital to support those who suffer from gun and knife injuries, their friends and their families. (complete by April 2019)

Focusing on the vocabulary of INCLUSION

For many people who exhibit disruptive or violent behaviour, exclusion is an experience that they feel at home, in their peer groups and their local neighbourhood. There is a wide range of issues and challenges that can cause disruptive or violent behaviour. They will vary for the individual, their experiences from early years, within their family and the specific personal needs they may have.

What is clear is that providing an environment where young people feel included and supported can have a positive impact in terms of a young person's emotional and social development. The school environment plays a vital role in this development, but it is also clear from the findings of the Croydon Vulnerable Adolescent Review, and in the development of both Contextual Safeguarding and Adverse Childhood Experiences, that the an inclusion approach requires support within the environments of the family, school and local neighbourhoods.

Our aim is to create the environment where services and agencies start from the point of inclusion. This will require refocusing the support services that are offered, to address disruptive and violent behaviour through early years support, within primary schools and the transition between primary and secondary school.

Our Pupil Referral Units play a vital role in providing key support for young people who display violence and aggression due to social and emotional isolation. The facilities within some of our Pupil Referral Units offer the potential of being used as part of a wider, community based, inclusion offer.

We recognise the challenges that this approach will pose to our schools, colleges, service providers and employees and the resources that will be needed to achieve this. However, it is an approach that is vitally needed if we are to achieve the ambition of long term reductions of violence that we are seeking.

What will we do?

- ✓ Develop and deliver interventions that promote inclusion at a community level, in schools, colleges and the workplace. (commence November 2019)
- ✓ Identify additional resources that can provide an "Inclusion Intervention Offer" in schools and colleges, or as part of work readiness. (commence January 2020)
- ✓ Work with schools to develop a model of understanding of trauma for both staff and pupils. (commence September 2019)
- ✓ Review the current Information flow between key agencies and schools so that early support can be provided to young people at risk of becoming involved in violence. (commence September 2019)

Recognition of the importance of culture and identity for families and young people.

Croydon is a borough which is proud of its rich cultural diversity. Culture and identity is not just defined by faith, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, it is the vibrancy that comes from the personal and social interactions that take place across our communities, how the diversification of those experiences enriches each generation.

For some young people and young adults it can create questions of their identity, trying to find where they fit between the culture of their family and the culture of their peers. Parents or elders may define their cultural identity in terms of their position in their community or their faith, how shame can significantly damage that position, their cultural heritage, and their ambitions for their children and grandchildren.

Young people and their cultural identity will be influenced by the society around them, the diversity and values of the people they meet, the music and social media that is relevant to their lives. As 61.9% of the under 18 population are second or third generation Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) young people, this group may be more adversely affected. They may recognise the cultural identity of their parents, but it is a part of their experiences, set in the context of wider social and personal experiences. Identity will also be shaped by personal experiences of disadvantage. This can include oppression, race, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

The understanding of the connection, or intersection, between these experiences, which shape a person's identity, do not exist independently and it is vital in how we design and deliver interventions. The risk of not understanding the intersection between these experiences is that we deliver "support" in a way which could have an adverse impact to the person and the relationships around them.

This sense of "Identity" has been highlighted by the community and voluntary organisations who provide support across our diverse communities. There is evidence that the challenges of culture and identity are becoming increasingly relevant in terms of violence prevention. Recent incidents between different communities directly relate to identity, culture and inequality and have been expressed in terms of disadvantage and a sense of oppression.

These are real challenges, highlighted by the evidence of disproportionately in the Vulnerable Adolescents Review. We aim to work with organisations and families to better understand the importance of culture and identity and develop programmes that can recognise different generational perspectives so that cultural identity is a positive influence, defining "Who I am, What I am and Who I want to be". This will ensure that any intervention is delivered in a way that does not create a division within or destabilise the dynamics of the family.

What will we do?

- ✓ We will develop a range of Culture and Identity Programmes with our voluntary and community sector, working alongside our schools and front line agencies who are delivering intervention programmes (programmes developed by December 2019)
- ✓ The programmes will be shaped at different aspects of identity in a way that can be applied universally or used for specific challenges in local settings. (developed by December 2019)
- ✓ Ensure that an understanding of culture and identity, is a key part of our screening and assessment process, incorporated into our approach to Contextual Safeguarding, Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma awareness. (complete by April 2020)
- ✓ Review how we work with communities in recognising so called honour-based violence and where to get support. (review complete October 2019)

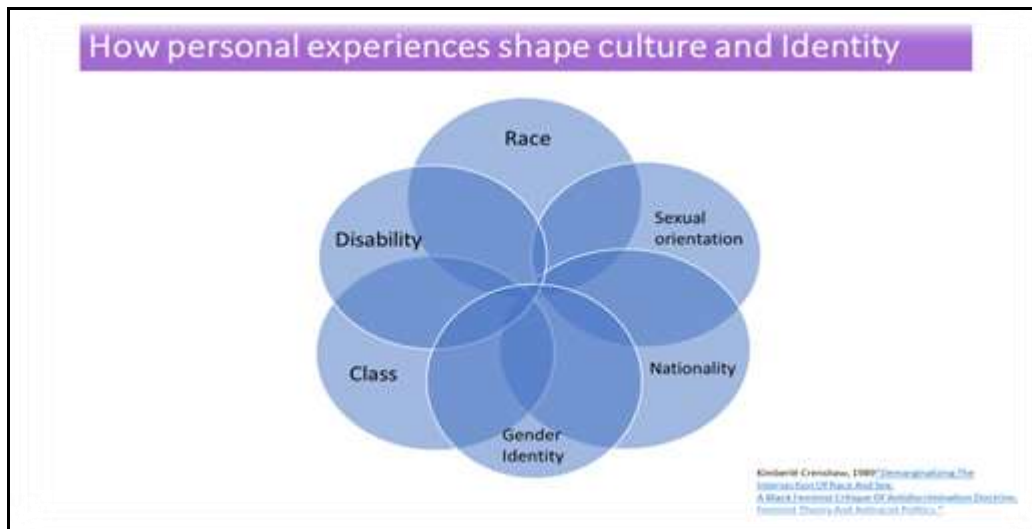


Diagram 7 – Culture and Identity shaped by personal experiences

Social media and violence

There is considerable debate concerning violent media and social media content and its impact on aggressive and violent criminal behaviour.

The broad consensus amongst youth agencies and academics is that exposure to violent media, including social media, increases the likelihood of aggressive behaviour in the short and long term, increases hostile perceptions and attitudes, and desensitises individuals to violence. In 2015 the Office for National Statistics identified that children who spend 3 hours or more on social media sites are more the twice as likely to suffer poor mental health. The report also highlighted children who are over exposed to social media can experience a delay in the social and emotional development and can suffer increased fear and anxiety.

However, the evidence linking violent media content and violent criminal behaviour is less clear. Recent research emphasises that media, including social media does not directly cause serious acts of violence, which tends to occur where there are other multiple risk factors which come together at a certain time, in a certain space, and within an individual.

These risk factors, such as trauma from family breakdown, experiences of violence, bereavement, being a victim of violence, neglect, homelessness, sustained periods of hunger, a sense of not belonging, increase the likelihood that violent social media has a direct effect on an individual's violent behaviour.

There is a clear need to focus on social media as part of our overall approach to addressing violence. The Catch 22 report "Social Media as a catalyst for Serious Youth Violence" sets out a number of key challenges, related to the impact of social media and violence:-

- Lack of legal and organisational guidance – There is a general lack of guidance on how frontline professionals can and should be using social media from both an organisational and legal perspective.
- In inadequate training – current training does not reflect the use of smartphone and social media applications.
- Limited supervision – There is insufficient oversight of, or engagement with children's use of social media.

What will we do?

We will work with schools, voluntary and community sector and criminal justice agencies to ensure the following steps are in place.

✓ Prevention

- Professionals working with young people, will be provided with sufficient, up-to-date training on social media on a regular basis. It will include specific content that focuses on the exploitation of young women. (developed by December 2019)
- Develop online resources explaining the basics of the main social media platforms and advice for parents and carers so they can have a greater oversight of their children's activity on social media, how to identify it and steps to address it. (developed by December 2019)
- We will review and update our current legislative guidance regulating the powers of the Council, Police and Criminal Justice Agencies, to monitor online content balancing the respect of people's rights to privacy and the imperative of safeguarding vulnerable children and young people. (complete by April 2020 2019)

✓ Intervention

- Professionals working with young people will be encouraged to actively use social media (particularly online content that is fully public) to better inform and support their frontline practice, building their increased knowledge as part of their intervention programmes. (Ongoing commencing September 2019)
- We will ensure that our risk and protective factor interventions for individuals or groups who are at risk of being involved in aggressive or violent acts includes a focus on understanding social media content that relates to violence. (Complete by April 2020)
- We will work with our voluntary and community organisations to provide guidance on social media and its impact of aggressive or violent behaviour, to their frontline practitioners, as part of their intervention programmes. (complete by April 2020)

Croydon Violence Reduction Network - Adopting a collaborative approach

No one agency or one organisation can deliver the long-term reduction in violence that we are seeking in Croydon. We need to combine our resources and invite that those have the best skills and knowledge to lead on the themes and deliver the actions that will make the most difference. This may include the collaboration between different partners from different backgrounds because we recognise that, combined, they have the strength to achieve better outcomes. This includes co-delivery between statutory and voluntary sector organisations, businesses and health providers.

What will we do?

- ✓ We will refer to our approach as the Croydon Violence Reduction Network.
- ✓ We will create a mission statement that sets out our intentions to reduce violence that can be shared and owned by all of the boards and forums involved in delivering our violence reduction approach. (complete September 2019)

- ✓ We will identify which board or forum is best placed to lead on the themes and priorities and invite them to take the lead, providing support as required. (complete August 2019)
- ✓ We will work with community and voluntary sector partners, faith and business communities to bring complementary services together so they can collaborate, in providing the best outcome for clients and maximise funding opportunities. (commence July 2019)

Delivering our Violence Reduction Approach

How we will deliver success?

The Governance of the Framework remains a council function, and each partner agency would be responsible for their own decision making with regard to implementation. However, in terms of delivering the themes and priorities of the Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction we will develop a comprehensive Delivery Plan through engagement with the existing multi-agency structures of the Local Strategic Partnership including the Health and wellbeing Board, Safer Croydon Partnership, Children and Families Board, Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Board and Future Place Board.

We will use these existing boards and forums to monitor and undertake the delivery of the actions related to the themes and key priorities of the Framework. We will identify which board or forum is best place to lead, design and deliver the actions and ensure that this is shared across partnerships. Regular updates on progress will be provided to Croydon Council's Cabinet. Relevant decision making will be referred Cabinet/Council as necessary,

Each theme or priority within the Delivery Plan will have a Strategic Lead identified who will be held accountable for the ensuring delivery and monitoring progress, based on their expertise. This approach will embed the ownership of Public Health Approach to Addressing Violence across a wider range of organisations, maximising the skills and knowledge of the strategic partnerships.

The Framework recognises the value of the localities approach in terms of delivering the key actions at a local level. In recognition of the intention to involve as wide an audience as possible in delivering long term reductions in violence the Public Health Approach to Addressing Violence in Croydon will be referred to as the "Croydon Violence Reduction Network".

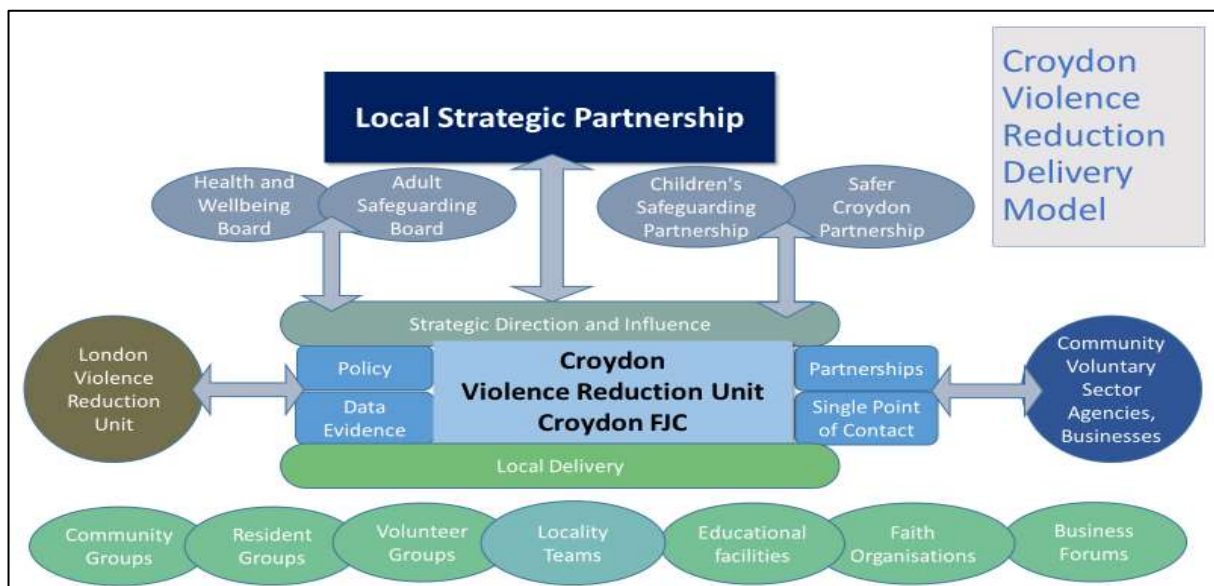
Finally, the Framework highlights the direct link with the Croydon Approach to Violence Reduction and the current delivery model that is being developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), recently established by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). It recognises the importance of aligning the themes and priorities set out above, with the priorities that emerge from the London VRU, whilst recognising the local Borough context.

There will be a small central team, referred to as the Violence Reduction Network who will have both the influence and responsibility to ensure that the partnership boards and forums are taking the lead for the themes and delivering the priorities. They will identify new partners who can play a crucial role in terms of delivery and finding additional resources. They will lead in developing the evidence and data and providing the information across the Croydon Violence Reduction Network so that all agencies to share knowledge and information.

The Family Justice Centre (FJC) will be at the centre of the Violence Reduction Unit. It will act as a single point of contact for agencies and services to signpost Domestic, Sexual Abuse and Violence clients to the most appropriate support. In certain circumstances the FJC will take on an advocacy role, ensuring that coordinated action is taken where there is an increased risk to a client, family, group or community. They will use their influencing role to identify gaps in services, working with partnership leads to address them.

Importantly will develop interventions using our Localities approach, bringing together local agencies in local areas so that we can have the maximum benefit for those who need our help.

We recognise that to be successful, we need to build from a community level. Our voluntary and community sector organisations are at the heart of our delivery and will be crucial in creating the local networks of support, designing solutions by listening the reflecting what is needed at a local level.



CROYDON FJC

The Croydon FJC is a centrally located service offering a multi-disciplinary approach for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their children. The service is open to all those experiencing abuse and can offer support at any stage of need. The FJC seeks to offer victims wrap around support and to prevent individuals having to go from agency to agency, telling their story repeatedly, in order to get the help, they need.

The FJC is run by a multi-agency team that works to provide families with access to support by;

- Listening and responding to the needs of service users, including children, in a safe way.
- Facilitating access to a wide range of domestic abuse and sexual violence expertise, support and services in order to meet the needs of service users and their children.

The multi-disciplinary team provides:

- holistic assessment of need and risk;
- advice and support on all aspects of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- Legal advice and support to obtain civil orders
- support and advice to access emergency safe accommodation
- support to access specialist services and advice, including no recourse to public funding issues, support for children, and rape and sexual abuse;
- drop-in and appointment service

- A domestic abuse helpline for survivors and practitioners.
- Support for professionals working with Victims by means of Case consultations and attendance at both statutory and non-statutory meetings
- Work as part of the multi- agency teams in MASH and adult social care SPOC

Croydon Violence Reduction Approach – Influencing at a Regional and National Level

We also recognise the important role that Croydon has in terms of the London Violence Reduction approach. We will ensure that we work closely with the Mayor’s Office of Policing and Crime in the shaping the London wide Strategic Priorities.

We will continue to use our regional influence with neighbouring authorities with the aim of building a strong evidence base on what is driving violence and the steps we can take, across our borough borders to address them. This includes a wider understanding of serious violence, organised crime and its links to modern day slavery, county lines and exploitation.

We believe that violence is a global challenge and as set out by the World Health Organisation, requires a global response. We will look at how we can work with academic institutions to carry out social research that can provide a detailed understanding of the local picture of violence and how it connects with national and international factors so that our long-term approach is seen as part of a “world-city” and global ambition to reduce violence across all societies.