

Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Serious Violence Duty Strategy

London Borough of Havering

2024-2027

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Foreword

Thank you for taking the time to read the Serious Violence Strategy for the London Borough of Havering.

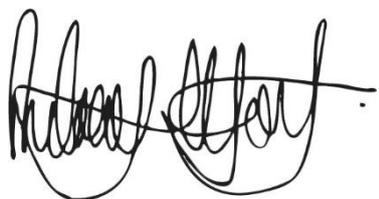
We recognise the trauma felt by victims of serious violence. Violence is ultimately a public health issue and one that could impact any resident at any time. Therefore, we need to act at the earliest stage to stop acts of serious violence. This means prevention, taking an intelligent and data-led approach to violence reduction.

We must accept the pace and scale of change at work in Havering, and that while we are fortunate to be one of the safest boroughs in London – we cannot rest while anyone is vulnerable, frightened or facing harm. We can do more to work smarter, harder and more effectively as a partnership to reduce the effects of serious violence and tackle the drivers of harm in our borough.

This strategy is not a solution. The council, as part of a multi-agency partnership, will continue to work on determining how violence in Havering will be addressed. It is a starting point, a statement of where we are and what we intend to do. We will look to be agile, aspirational and imaginative in our approach with partners.

We ask that you will be supportive and proactive in how you hold us to account, and join us to tackle the subject of violence in our community.

We all have a part to play, as a community, in reducing violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Blake-Herbert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Blake-Herbert

Chief Executive Officer, London Borough of Havering
Chair of Havering Community Safety Partnership

Introduction

This Strategy document has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

The duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and production of a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.

The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.

The responsible authorities (also known as 'duty holders') in the Serious Violence Duty will be:

- the police
- fire and rescue authorities
- justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- local authorities

Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions will be under a separate duty to co-operate with duty holders, but they are not duty holders.

This strategy takes account of guidance issued by the government, as well as London guidance, developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit, in collaboration with London Councils, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police, NHS London and Probation Service.

The strategy sets out the agreed definition of Serious Violence for the borough, summarises the key aspects of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, the partnership arrangements that have been agreed locally to lead on delivery of the duty, the areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence, and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities - including young people, as well as businesses.

Date for review/annual review mechanism

This Strategy document forms the structure of our approach to reducing violence over the next three years; different sections of the strategy will be reviewed and revised on a range of time frames, to balance a responsive approach with long-term planning.

Strategy Component	Date of Publication	Date of Review
Definition of Serious Violence	31/01/2024	31/01/2027
Local Partnership Arrangements	31/01/2024	31/01/2027
Strategic Needs Assessment	31/01/2024	31/01/2027
Actions to Prevent and Reduce Violence	31/01/2024	31/01/2025
Engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, young people and local business	31/01/2024	31/01/2025
Identified funding streams or resources that can be used by the partnership for prevention and reduction activities	31/01/2024	31/03/2025

Progress of this strategy, the objectives set out within it and the local action plan, will be reviewed through the Community Safety Partnership or equivalent local partnership meeting.

Definition of Serious Violence

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism.

Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in Havering, is defined as:

Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.

Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Notes

A Within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

- 1) This section defines “domestic abuse” for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if— (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are “personally connected” to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive. (3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following— (a) physical or sexual abuse; (b) violent or threatening behaviour; (c) controlling or coercive behaviour; (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4)); (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse; and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.
- (4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to — (a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or (b) obtain goods or services.
- (5) For the purposes of this Act, A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).
- (6) References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section. (7) For the meaning of “personally connected”,

It should be noted that in Chapter 3 of the Statutory Guidance of the act, it recognises that domestic abuse can encompass a range of behaviours, including abuse that is physical, violent or threatening behaviour, sexual abuse, controlling & coercive behaviour, harassment or stalking, economic abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse, technology-facilitated based, abuse relating to faith, ‘honour’-based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

B With regards to ‘*violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25*,’ this encompasses those aged under 25 who are victims of offences; suspects/offenders for offences; or both. (aligned to home office Home Office “definition” of serious violence in their 2018 strategy)

C Serious violence includes (but does not require) any of the defined offences where a knife, section one firearm or corrosive substance is used, threatened or intimidated.

Local Partnership Arrangements

Within the Duty it is for the specified authorities to come together to decide on the appropriate lead and structure of collaboration for their area. The government guidance references the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP), or other partnerships such as the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, Criminal Justice boards or Health and Wellbeing boards. It also suggests it may also be the case that collaboration via several different partnership structures is preferred depending on the local context. Of the statutory partnership arrangements, only the Community Safety Partnership has all the “duty holders” within its membership, and it is not restricted by the age criteria for children and adult safeguarding partnerships.

The London Guidance recommends that the Community Safety Partnership be the local partnership to lead on the borough’s implementation and compliance with the duty and the below box provides the option for each local area to decide on the lead partnership.

In the London borough of Havering, we confirm that we are following the London guidance and the Community Safety Partnership will be the lead partnership for implementation and ensuring compliance with the duty.

The Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) is comprised of five responsible authorities who, by law, are required to work together to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending. There is also a statutory requirement that the HCSP produces an annual strategic assessment of these issues in coordination with a community safety strategy or plan.

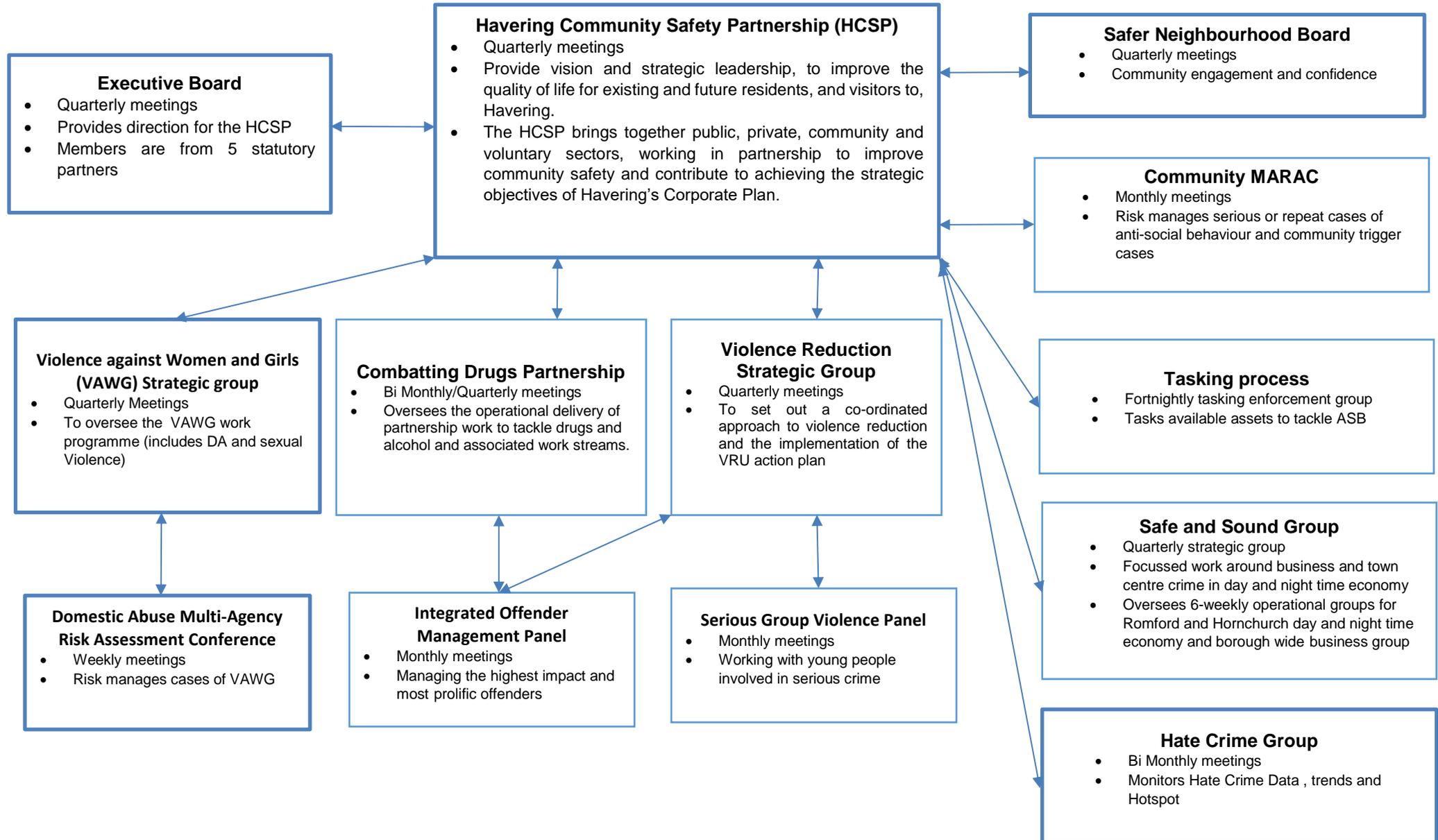
Responsible Authorities (those required to be involved by statute)

- London Borough of Havering (including Public Health)
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Metropolitan Police
- London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
- Probation Service

Other Organisations

- Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Trust
- Greater London Authority Member
- Victim Support
- Havering Women’s Aid
- Job Centre Plus
- Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)
- North East London Foundation Trust
- Safer Neighbourhood Board

Governance and Structure of the Havering Community Safety Partnership



Summary of the Strategic Needs Assessment of Violence

The strategic needs assessment is intended to enable partners to identify current and long-term issues relating to serious violence and those most vulnerable to involvement in the local area. This provides a greater understanding of established and emerging serious violence trends, priority locations or other high-risk issues.

The strategic needs assessment has been developed following an evidence-based analysis of data relating to violence, as well as broader datasets including those in relation to deprivation and health.

The strategic needs assessment has looked at the critical areas of violence and vulnerability within the definition of serious violence, including violence affecting those under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

In assessing each of the critical areas, the analysis has looked at locations that have a higher risk of violence and temporal factors, such as the times of greater and lesser offending, including the times of day, days of the week and seasonal trends through the year. The analysis has also looked at the profile of victims and offenders of violence, in order to understand the risks and opportunities for prevention.

The following is a summary of the strategic needs assessment. More detailed figures in relation to the below findings, and the full copy of the assessment, can be made available to organisations and professionals working in the borough on a case by case basis. To request a copy, please contact the Community Safety Team communitysafety@haverling.gov.uk.

Key Findings

Theme 1: Place and Population

- Havering is seeing significant demographic change; 2021 Census Data demonstrates the population is increasing faster, it is getting younger and more diverse, more young families are moving into the area.
- Havering is also maintaining a significant older population. We now have the lowest proportion of working-age adults in London (only 60.1% of total population); economic inactivity is largely due to retirement (21% of residents aged 16+)
- Improvements can be seen in the general health of the population; more individuals reporting being in good health, fewer in ill health; fewer individuals living with disabilities or conditions which affect their daily activities
- Deprivation in Havering remains fairly low, and isolated to specific areas in the North and South of the borough; the proportion of Households experiencing no deprivation has increased by 19%. While households experiencing deprivation in one dimension has increased by 4%, households experiencing complex deprivation across multiple dimensions has decreased, with a reduction of 89% in households deprived in all four dimensions (employment, education, health & disability, housing).

Theme 2: Risk and Protective Factors

- Disproportionality by ethnicity can be seen across all the major cohorts identified within this analysis, including: the Youth Justice cohort, the victims and perpetrators of violent offences, the probation cohort, the Serious Group Violence Panel Cohort
- Education as a protective factor was weakened significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic; outcomes are measurably worse for children's development and learning as a result. This includes:
 - A 7% drop in children attaining a good level of development at early years, down to 65% in 2021/22
 - A 10% drop in children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage 2, down to 61% in 2021/2022
- There are no notable changes to outcomes at key stage 4 and 5 during the period, given the national efforts to maintain outcomes for young people during the pandemic through teacher-led assessments.
- Havering has always had challenges around education, and while we are currently beating national averages in relation to student outcomes, we are underperforming for the region. However, we have made significant improvements in the quality of education provision; 95% of our student cohort now attend OFSTED-rated Good schools or better
- Havering's free school meals students have the worst rate of Early Years Achievement in London, and joint fourth worst nationwide; only 41.4% of children with FSM status achieved a 'good' level of development at the end of reception in 2020-2021.
- Overall school attendance presents a good picture for Havering; total absences are below national and regional averages, with 4.3% recorded for the secondary school cohort in 2021-2022. Previously Havering has performed worse than London, but we have shown a positive trend over the last five years. This can be seen across both authorised and unauthorised absences.
- Havering has low rates of permanent exclusion; in 2021-22 0 individuals were permanently excluded from school. The borough also has low rates of fixed-term exclusion.
- There are signs of increases in absence and exclusions rates among children known to social care; in 2021-22, 50.8% of CIN children were identified as persistent absentees, above the London average of 44.4%. 15.9% of those in care had at least one Fixed-Term Exclusion. This is a significant increase on the previous year and well above the average for London, England and our Statistical neighbours.
- Havering has good 'civic strength' according to the 2021 GLA Civic Strength Index, performing well in measures around local relationships and public infrastructure – ranking 10th for these domains among the London boroughs. We perform much more poorly around democratic engagement, ranking only 20th.
- Mental wellbeing is strong, with low levels of dissatisfaction and anxiety, and the eighth highest WEMWBS score for young people in London. However rates

of self-harm and suicide are above the London averages, at 90 per 100,000 and 8.4 per 100,000 in the latest available data.

- While Havering is an affluent borough, poverty in the area disproportionately affects children; 17% of adults in Havering live in poverty, compared to 33% of children.
- The total YJS cohort has decreased significantly over the past five years; reducing from 115 individuals in 2019 to 36 in 2022. Predominantly individuals are open for violence and robbery offences. No individuals have been open for burglary or drug supply offences in the last five years, despite how frequently these offences come up at risk panels
- The YJS cohort are surprisingly young, with children aged 14 accounting for a third of offences.
- We have seen significant increase in cases coming to children's social care involving: domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and gangs. The proportion of assessments involving CSE or gangs have doubled since 2018-19, up to 4.9% and 2.5% of assessments respectively
- The number of individuals accessing substance misuse treatment has trended down since 2017, with broadly similar trends seen in success rates for opiate and non-opiate treatment. Meanwhile, the number of drug-related deaths has increased, up to 17 in 2018-2020

Theme 3: Violence Profile - Violence and Exploitation Affecting Young People Under the Age of 25

- With 3,255 offences across the two year period, Havering has a relatively low number of violence-related offences affecting under 25s compared to the regional averages, ranking 23rd in 2021 and 24th in 2022 among the 32 London boroughs. Similarly, the rate per 100k population is positive, although in 2022 at 645 offences per 100k, it was worse than neighbouring borough Redbridge.
- Havering has the highest proportion of violence & exploitation offences involving U25 in London (50.4% of V&E offences involve at least one individual U25). Where we have violence, it is predominantly involving young people, and more of our violence is youth violence than any other borough.
- Specific concerns can be seen in the rankings for sexual offences, although the picture improved between 2021 (ranked 13th) and 2022 (ranked 16th).
- Weapon possession is a key concern; we have gone from 18th to 16th for weapon possession over the period, and the scale and severity of weapon possession in the borough that comes up repeatedly among professionals
- There was a 19% increase of weapon-enabled offences between 2022 and 2021, largely driven by increases within robbery, ABH and threats to kill offences. 97% of these were knife-related incidents
- Key locations for weapon offending are Romford, Elm Park and Hornchurch, whereas weapon possession offences are more frequent in Romford and Upminster.
- The victims of serious violence are broadly evenly split by gender, although this changes depending on the offence. 83% of sexual offence victims were female,

85% of robbery victims were male. Male victims were more likely to be under 18, whereas female victims were slightly more likely to be aged 18-24.

- 69% of perpetrators were male, and 63% were under the age of 25.
- Robbery was predominantly committed by those under 18, with this age group accounting for almost half of offences, whereas weapon possession was more evenly split between children (49% of offences) and young adults 18-25 (25% of offences).
- The available data indicates disproportionality by ethnicity, with individuals from white backgrounds underrepresented and individuals from BME backgrounds, particularly black backgrounds, overrepresented in both victim and suspect cohorts. However, ethnicity data was not available for 18% of victims and 31% of suspects, hampering the strength of these claims.
- The number of offences resulting in persons accused is incredibly low, and slightly below the London average – 7.1% of incidents in Havering resulting in persons accused, compared to 7.5% across London.
- Romford is a significant location of serious violence, both within the borough (20% of all offences took place in St Edwards Ward) and the capital (7th highest ranked ward in London for these offences)
- Romford is the principal ward for all crime sections, but other wards stand out for specific offences: Elm Park for robberies, Rush Green & Crowlands for sexual offences, and Gooshays/Heaton for VAP offences.
- The top 20 locations offer insight into the main drivers of violence; 11 are in Romford, 5 are pubs and clubs, 5 are schools, shopping venues are included in the top 20 due to high levels of robbery
- Reporting issues have led to false claims of the majority of Havering offences being linked to the night time economy – the modal time for offences is in fact between 3pm and 4pm.
- While MPS data records an increase in violent offences from 2021 to 2022, this is largely driven by ‘Violence without injury’ offences. Corroborating this, LAS data shows a 15% reduction in callouts between the two years;
- Minor injuries make up the majority of callouts, particularly minor head wounds which are present in 29% of incidents
- Romford, Harold Hill and Hornchurch are the main drivers for LAS calls; the ward covering Romford (based on previous boundaries) has twice as many incidents as the next ward; this can be traced back to the expected areas in the borough such as South Street.
- Upminster Rail Station records a higher number of violence-related offences than Romford; this is largely driven by higher levels of robbery and sexual offences. Force jurisdiction may have an impact here, or how offences across the district line are attributed to Upminster as the terminating station.
- While TFL reports of violence are low, four bus routes make up 42% of total incidents. These were the 174 (8 incidents), 496 (5 incidents), 103 and 248 (3 incidents each). These are significant routes, all travelling through or terminating in Romford.

Theme 4: Violence Profile – Domestic Abuse

- Generally Havering performs well for Domestic Abuse (DA) offences; while in total DA flagged offences we climbed from 20th among London Boroughs in 2021 to 18th in 2022, across both years we remained steady at 20th when considering only DA-flagged serious violence. A total of 1,865 DA-flagged serious violence offences were recorded for Havering across the two year period.
- In 2022 the rate of offences increased to 365 per 100,000 residents, slightly above neighbouring borough Redbridge.
- According to offence flagging within the dataset, the vast majority of DA offences did not involve conventional weapons like knives or guns; where they do, threats to kill is the predominant offence, involving a knife.
- 76% of the victims of DA-flagged serious violence are female; 73% of the perpetrators were male.
- Ethnicity data is not available for 11% of victims and 29% of suspects. Individuals from white backgrounds are underrepresented in both cohorts, but there is insufficient data to confirm overrepresentation among individuals from BME backgrounds.
- The majority of DA takes place within relationships; 70% of suspects knew their victims as current or former spouses/partners. Ex-boyfriends are the most common perpetrators
- Within families, sons and stepsons make up the largest proportion of DA perpetrators, and the number of sons identified as suspects for DA serious violence increased from 2021 to 2022. ‘Son’ is the fourth most common identification of perpetrator; more sons committed DA than ex-husbands in the two year period.
- Heaton and Gooshays account for the highest levels of DA serious violence in the borough, 12% and 9% respectively. Gooshays saw a 42% increase in offences in 2022.
- 10 LSOAs across Romford, Harold Hill and Hornchurch account for 19% of all serious domestic violence. However, at a coordinate level, offences are fairly dispersed, with no point accounting for more than a small handful of offences.
- Heaton is the 8th highest ranked ward in London for serious domestic violence; it is one of only two East London wards in the list. The ranking for Gooshays has also risen to 15th in 2022.
- DA has the same issues with offences attributed to 00:01; when these are discounted the modal time for offences is 12:00-13:00. The modal days for offending are at the weekend.
- The midday hotspot does not correlate with the views of professionals, and appears to be a recording issue – the majority of these noon offences were recorded 7+ days after the offence was committed. By focusing on offences recorded within 7 days of the committed date (81% of offences), we can identify peaks in offending between 18:00-19:00 and 20:00-21:00.
- Referrals to DV MARAC and the Havering IDVA service rose dramatically during the COVID pandemic and have remained high ever since. Both services are not funded/staffed to meet the level of need.

Theme 5: Violence Profile – Sexual Violence

- With a total of 1,067 offences of sexual violence in the two year period, Havering ranks relatively well within the London boroughs 23rd in 2021 and 24th in 2022. Similarly, the rate per 100k population is positive; although it did increase between the two years it was only by a small amount, with other boroughs seeing much larger increases.
- Almost no sexual offences involve weapons, according to MPS flagging.
- Significant improvements were made within the period to data collection around victim ethnicity for sexual offences; the proportion of unknown records halved between 2021 and 2022, from 38% to 19%. Ethnicity data for suspects was consistently limited across the period. As a whole there was insufficient data to draw any conclusions, although where data was available, individuals from white backgrounds were underrepresented, indicating disproportionality is likely in how these offences affect BME communities.
- Over a third – 36% - of sexual violence is perpetrated against under 18s. This age group only make up 18% of perpetrators.
- Only 1.4% of incidents of sexual violence resulted in individuals accused, a dismal rate. This is one of the lower rates in London but no borough has a rate higher than 2.8%.
- St Edwards ward accounts for almost a quarter of all sexual offences. In fact, two LSOAs – in Romford town centre – account for 20% of sexual violence in the borough, more than the next 10 LSOAs combined. Unfortunately, specific location data is not available for the majority of sexual offences so we cannot review if any specific venues or hotspots are the main drivers for sexual violence.
- St Edwards ward is ranked 4th in London wards for sexual violence.
- When accounting for the outlier offending attributed to 00:01, the peak times for sexual offences are 09:00-10:00 and 12:00-13:00. Peak dates are Saturday and Friday.
- As with domestic violence, 12:00-13:00 does not match the views of professionals in this space, and appears to be a reporting issue. By reviewing offences recorded within 7 days of being committed we can identify a more 'traditional' distribution, with a peak at 15:00-16:00, but we have had to dismiss 60% of the dataset to do so. As such, this data is not considered reliable for conducting a temporal analysis of sexual violence.
- Sexual offending peaks over the summer months, and is lowest at the start of the year in January and February; this is likely affected by the third lockdown in 2021 and may not be an accurate reflection of general seasonal trends.

Theme 6: Community Voice

- The majority of participants in the 2023 Community Safety Survey felt that knife crime was a problem in their neighbourhood. Over a quarter of participants also feel knife crime has gotten worse in the last twelve months.
- 47% felt street gangs and violence – as they understood them – were a problem in their neighbourhood 20% feel these issues have gotten worse.

- When asked what would make participants feel safer – the most popular response by a significant margin was increased police presence. The next most frequent requests were increased CCTV, addressing car thefts and slow response times.
- It is worth noting that demographic data on the survey suggests respondents do not accurately reflect the borough, or those communities most affected by serious violence.
- Havering has a higher level of confidence in the police than the London average, but the same downward trend can be seen. Havering is below the London average in one category ‘Participants agree the Police can be relied upon to be there when needed’
- Attitudes towards services were mixed, with only 11% of participants feeling there was a ‘good response’ to violence from both police, council and other services.
- The Shout Youth Survey found that the majority of children – 57% of 1029 participants – felt unsafe on the streets, with 34% feeling unsafe at bus stops and train stations. A quarter of participants felt unsafe in our local parks. Only 30% of children said they felt safe across the borough.

Theme 7: Review of Existing Evidence

- Evidence has been compiled from a range of sources, including the Strategic Assessment, Public Health JSNA and reports from the Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group.
- Crime levels are generally low, with Havering remaining 26th out of the 32 London boroughs for total recorded crime – making it arguably the 7th safest borough in London.
- There has been an increase in total offending between the years 2021 and 2022, largely driven by an increase in vehicle crime, although most offence types saw an increase over the period.
- Violence against the person makes up 27% of all crime reported in Havering.
- The JSNA was considered across the tri-borough area, considering the four pillars of population health; key areas raised are the large and growing elderly population putting increased strain on local services, considering health factors within regeneration projects, addressing risky behaviours including weight issues and alcohol-related harm, and transformation in the health and social care system.
- TTCGs over the period have broadly focused on Romford town centre as the principal hotspot for Romford, with recurring factors including alcohol, drug use and supply.
- The TTCG does not currently recognise any gangs in Havering as per the MPS Violence Harm Index.
- Evaluations and Independent Scrutiny in relation to the borough’s youth services, and the Harold Hill locality have also been considered.
- The conclusion of the independent evaluation of the Havering detached youth service in 2022 was that “the Detached Youth Work project and Havering Youth

and Participation Service is making a real difference to young people's lives in very difficult circumstances." Key success areas were harm and violence prevention, improving mood and mental health, and healthy relationships and boundaries. It was reported that this youth work was reaching 'the parts that other agencies can't reach'.

- The Harold Hill Independent Scrutiny has identified significant challenges in the current provision and resourcing for the area, with current responses working in isolation, to short-time timeframes or under threat of reduction and closure. It was recommended that senior leadership meet to collaborate on a Harold Hill Serious Youth Violence Safeguarding Strategy, with an associated action plan.

Theme 8: Mapping Current Provision

- Mapping of youth violence provision shows a number of offers available in schools and alternative provisions, but very little available outside of school or detached. This is a key area to address in line with the hotspots identified around the 'lost hours'
- A high proportion of services constitute one-off or linked series' of workshops delivered to young people; future provision commissioning could consider what alternative forms/delivery methods could be utilised. A number of these workshops also cover a wide range of topics, indicating at a potential surplus of breadth and lack of depth. An balance of these workshops alongside more targeted, specialist provision could be considered
- Mapping of domestic violence provision shows high-quality services in the MARAC and IDVA spaces which are overstretched and oversubscribed; additional resources should be levied to increase capacity
- There is a lack of services supporting victims and witnesses of serious youth violence and sexual violence; there are Pan London programmes available, but nothing commissioned locally. Victims Support are well engaged with the DV MARAC process but not engaged with other intelligence/risk panels, particularly around young victims.
- Mapping of provision has been conducted using local professional insight and research; there is no existing directory of provision, and it is not clear how easily local residents could find out what is available for them and their families.

Gaps

The Strategic Needs Assessment was completed following the template set out by the London Violence Reduction Unit. This included a number of data indicators recommended for consideration. The partnership has covered those indicators as and when they were available, as well as other areas that were deemed pertinent to this assessment. Not all data was available, or met the necessary requirements for quantity or quality. These gaps have been outlined below, by theme.

Theme 1: Place and Population

Child Health Data (Requested under Section 1.2): data was not available

Health inequalities Data (Requested under Section 1.2): data was only available on life expectancy inequalities. It would be valuable to consider how inequality affects other points of health.

Theme 2: Risk and Protective Factors

Free School Meals Data (not requested): data was available on school readiness among FSM cohort, which indicated poor performance in Havering. This may be worth considering in future assessments or a separate report.

Mental Health Needs Data (requested under Section 2.2): data was not available in time for completion of the needs assessment, but will be considered in future reports.

Social Care data on children known for a 'violence related concern' (requested under Section 2.4): this data is not captured under current statutory categorisations of need

Social Care data on contacts into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub involving a 'violence related concern' (not requested): this may be a useful measure for considering violence coming to the attention of the safeguarding partnership, but data capture improvements are needed to make this indicator available for consideration.

Social care data on adults known for a 'violence related concern' (requested under section 2.5): only domestic violence is covered by existing categorisations of need.

Drug Survey Data (Not requested): the last local data available on reported youth drug usage in the population is from the 2014/15 What About Youth Survey

Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Services Data: (not requested): data was not available data was not available in time for completion of the needs assessment, but will be considered in future reports.

Probation Data (requested under Section 2.8): only snapshot data was available to review the population open to Probation Services on that day, and only as a summation across the two boroughs in the Probation Delivery Unit.

Themes 3-5: Violence Profiles

MPS Flagged Offences: (requested under Section 3.1, 4.1, 5.1): The available data on offences flagged with relevant feature codes has been reviewed and presented

within this assessment. However, it is frequently reported that the flags are inconsistently used and so cannot be considered a total reflection of that reporting. In some cases, the flags available do not necessarily capture the offending they are understood to.

MPS Demographics Terminology: victims are recorded by their sex; suspects and accused by their gender. This appears to just be a discrepancy in the language used in recording, and does not relate to any specific differences in categorisation, but could be reviewed for clarity across the different datasets.

MPS Ethnicity Data (requested under Sections 3.3-3.4, 4.3-4.4, 5.3-5.4): ethnicity was not recorded for a significant number of individuals across both victims, suspects and accused cohorts.

MPS Repeat Victimization Data (requested under sections 4.3-4.4, 5.3-5.4): repeat victimisation data was not available.

MPS Location Data (requested under Sections 3.5, 4.5, 5.5): coordinate data was anonymised for a number of serious offences including the majority of sexual offences. This has significantly limited our hotspot analysis and review of potential crime generators.

MPS Committed Times Data (requested under Sections 3.6, 4.6, 5.6): there appear to be significant reporting issues with temporal data, which may have affected past analysis.

Emergency Departments Data (requested under Section 3.9): local emergency departments are not currently geotagging the majority admissions data, to attribute it to relevant local boroughs. As such, there is insufficient data available to review local ED admissions.

Theme 6: Community Voice

Community Safety Survey (requested under Section 6.1): The annual survey was conducted with a number of questions relevant to this needs assessment. These responses have been collated and the analysis presented here, but it is noteworthy that the demographics of those who completed the survey is not wholly representative of the borough population, and those most affected by serious violence. As such, there is a gap around the views and perceptions of key local communities, particularly younger people and those from BME backgrounds.

Theme 7: Review of Existing Evidence

No gaps identified.

Theme 8: Mapping Current Provision

No gaps identified.

Recommendations

Challenging disproportionality

Other boroughs have higher levels of violence, and higher levels of poverty.

Other boroughs have higher levels of youth violence, and higher levels of child poverty.

But in Havering, where we have violence and poverty, these disproportionately involve children and young people. The majority of our serious violence involves young people. Every single one of our vulnerable cohorts shows disproportionality by ethnicity.

As a whole, outcomes for children and adults in Havering are good. However, we can see a significant drop in outcomes for children on free school meals, children known to social care, and children and adults living in deprivation. In some cohorts, this gap is more significant than it is elsewhere in the region or the country. In other cohorts, the gaps are increasing.

We need to recognise that Havering has changed and will continue to change. We need to monitor the gaps within our population and start targeting our action to those most in need, not the loudest or largest groups.

Recognising the new profile of Serious Violence

Violence in Havering has been largely attributed to violence in Romford, and specifically to the night time economy. It is clear with a close inspection of the data that the modal time is actually much earlier in the day, and a greater focus of resources needs to be directed towards 'the lost hours' between 3pm and 7pm, when young people leave school and socialise. Romford remains the main location, but young people are agile and frequently direct themselves to other hotspots; we must be able to move our resources with them.

Plugging the gaps in our intelligence

Addressing the gaps does not end with improving provision during the 'lost hours'. The needs assessment, while thorough, was not able to consider all of the relevant and necessary data indicators. Work needs to take place to address these holes in the information framework before the next strategic needs assessment is completed.

Capturing the voice of the changing population

Responses to the Community Safety Survey cannot be said to accurately reflect the borough population, or those most affected by serious violence. Where demographic data was provided, 93% of participants were over 25, 94% were white British and 66% were female. As such their recommendations cannot be said to be wholly representative of the community to which we need to be listening.

We know that participants in the Community Safety Survey want more police, more CCTV, less car thefts. But what does the community being devastated by serious violence want? Currently, we are not able to say. We have some indication of what young people want from the Shout Survey – and it does not align with the

recommendations of the Community Safety Survey. We need to reform our approach to outreach and participation, and better engage the borough's changing population.

Advocating for resourcing a changing borough

The assessment shows that Havering is no longer the same borough it has been perceived to be for the preceding thirty years. It is younger, more diverse, and has significant needs in our hotspot locations that are significant at a regional level. St Edwards Ward is one of the highest wards in the capital for youth violence and sexual violence; Heaton Ward is one of the highest for violent domestic abuse.

We need to work to challenge the perception of the borough as being broadly older, wealthier, and less in need of funding and resources. Despite the high levels of violence in St Edwards, Havering receives a third of the allocated funding from the Violence Reduction Unit as the other boroughs in our BCU. Havering has a third of the number of IDVAs, despite skyrocketing caseloads coming to the service. We do not have the resources to cope with the current demand, let alone the projected demand as the population continues to change and London keeps moving eastward.

Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

The partnership has agreed a range of activity to reduce the risks of violence and vulnerability. These are set out within a Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan. This plan contains information for which disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. As such, this plan is not available to the public.

The plan template contains eight different themes each with a set of mandatory actions as well as a menu of optional actions. The themes within the local plan are:

1. **Governance**- this provides an oversight of the leadership and governance of violence reduction locally, detailing the senior leadership structure as well as interoperability between Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Adults Safeguarding Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reduce violence
2. **Analysis and Enforcement**- understanding of how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally, including the Strategic Needs Assessment, monthly tasking meetings and using wider data
3. **Reducing Access to Weapons**- how partners are working jointly to minimise access including using Trading Standard initiatives and weapons sweeps
4. **Safeguarding and Educating Young people**- contains actions that include focussing on reducing exclusions, contextual safeguarding, support for children in care and care leavers, working with parents and carers and ensuring schools are safe and inclusive spaces
5. **Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence**- ensuring that local delivery works closely with communities to reduce violence including the Voluntary and Community Sector and in particular young people, who are most adversely affected by violence
6. **Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability**- ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are most vulnerable to being exploited
7. **Positive Diversion from Violence**- recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them before or to move away from criminality
8. **Tackling Violence against Women and Girls** – ensuring that VAWG is considered as a central form of serious violence, as per the established definition

This plan is reviewed on a continuous basis, with contributions made from across the multi-agency partnership. Taking account of the actions within the plan and the findings of the Strategic Needs Assessment, the local partnership has agreed the following strategic objectives for the next 12 months to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Objective 1: Governance

Embed Monitoring of the Serious Violence Strategy and Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan in the Serious Violence Working Group.

This will be held quarterly, chaired by the Chief Inspector for Neighbourhoods and reporting into the Havering Community Safety Partnership

Objective 2: Analysis and Enforcement

Develop a targeted plan to address violence and exploitation during the 'lost hours' in Romford Town Centre

This will include a review of existing resources and how these are targeted to the day and night economies, and what services are needed to address gaps in the offer.

Objective 3: Reducing Access to Weapons

Develop a robust new communications plan around weapon carrying

This will target awareness of how parents and members of the public can identify weapon carrying at key trigger points – purchase, storage, transport – and take action.

Objective 4: Safeguarding and Educating Young People

Maximise uptake of existing underused programmes available in Havering, including Rescue & Response, Victims Support.

This will including a refresh of communications around these services within the partnership, and consideration given to any blockages to access/uptake.

Objective 5: Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence

Capture community voice through a new series of police-led community meetings.

These will be held quarterly throughout 2024. At least one will be targeted toward engaging young people.

Objective 6: Supporting Victims of Violence or Vulnerability

Review victims support offer locally and how this information is shared with partners and the public.

This will considering if new approach to universal and/or targeted signposting is needed.

Objective 7: Positive Diversion from Violence

Review the Adolescent Safeguarding Offer in Havering

This will include a review of the current Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Service, and the current array of Risk Management Panels across the partnership.

Objective 8: Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

Undertake a review of the Domestic Violence MARAC in Havering

This will include a review of Terms of Reference, partner members, the frequency and structure of panel meetings.

Engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, young people and local business

Local communities, the voluntary and community sector (VCS), local businesses and young people have an important role to play, in violence reduction. Our local violence and vulnerability action plan contain a range of activity that involves communities and neighbourhoods in reducing violence and the action within these should support the strategy.

In developing the local strategy to reduce serious violence, we have consulted with numerous partner organisations, including:

- British Transport Police
- Change Grow Live (Local substance misuse services provider)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Havering Safer Neighbourhood Board
- Havering Women's Aid
- Local Providers of Alternative Education Provision (Koru, Olive, BEP)
- Metropolitan Police Service
- National Probation Service
- New City College
- North East London NHS Foundation Trust
- The Havering Compact
- Voluntary Sector Organisations (LifeLine Projects, Box-Up Crime, Youth Unity CIC)

As part of the development of this strategy, a multi-agency workshop was held in September 2023. A broad range of professionals from across the partnership came together to discuss and contribute to the serious violence agenda. This included an extensive presentation of the serious violence strategic needs assessment, the Independent Scrutiny Report into the Harold Hill locality, and key updates from a range of partners including police, education and DWP.

A key focus of the workshop was developed the Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan; considering our approach to serious violence in relation to the eight themes of the plan.

In groups of ten, discussions were held to consider organisational involvement in reducing violence locally, exploring branches of funding availability and linking networking contacts to help aid ongoing projects. The groups were arranged to balance matching partners to key areas of influence alongside fresh perspectives. Groups were asked to review, for their theme:

- Current provision within Havering for this area of delivery
- What may be missing from current provision and ways of working, considering both achievable wins and big ideas.
- Scoring the progress against the actions to date
- Choosing key actions for each theme, with appropriate performance indicators.

Conversations were positive and extensive, with responses collected by table facilitators and incorporated into the Violence and Vulnerability Plan. They have also driven the eight key actions as outlined above.

Further consultation will take place through the year, within the new police-led community meetings and the 2024 Community Safety Survey.

Identified funding streams or resources that can be used by the partnership for prevention and reduction activities

Source of fund	Description of activity	Funding breakdown (if possible)	2023-2024	2024-2025
MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-25	Violence Reduction Analyst Provision	Provision of a Violence Reduction Analyst	45,000	45,000
Havering Council	IDVA provision	Provision of a Full Time IDVA	45,000	45,000
MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-25	IDVA provision	Provision of 2 full time IDVAs	85,000	85,000
MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund 2022-25	Serious Youth Violence Mentoring Service	Commissioned Mentoring Service, ages 11-25	60,000	60,000
Probation Service	Serious Youth Violence Mentoring Service	Commissioned Mentoring Service, ages 11-25	10,000	10,000
MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit Funding	Night Marshalls Service	Commissioned Night Marshalls Service, Romford Town Centre	50,000	50,000
Business Improvement District	Street Triage Service	Commissioned First Aid/Triage Service, Romford Town Centre	50,000	50,000
MOPAC Serious Violence Duty Funding	Serious Violence Analytic and Project Support	Provision of serious violence analytics and project support	20,232.36	19,260.43
MOPAC Serious Violence duty Funding	Youth Diversion Projects: Detached Work	Funded diversionary projects, Romford and Harold Hill	19,496.51	9,888.45
Safer Neighbourhood Board	Switch Futures: Young Voices Project	Funded Engagement Project, capturing youth voice around safety	2,950	-
Safer Neighbourhood Board	Crime Prevention Materials	Funded crime prevention materials for distribution across Havering	4,461	-