

## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 6 September 2022

**Subject:** Serious Violence Draft Strategy

**Report of:** Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

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### Summary

This report provides an overview of progress made on developing Manchester's Serious Violence Strategy. The draft strategy explains the strategic partnership approach to serious violence for Manchester.

### Recommendations

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the information contained in this report.

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### Wards Affected: All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
None

<b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments
Serious violence in Manchester has a disproportionate effect on people who have protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. These include, but are not limited to, age, gender, disability and ethnicity. The draft Serious Violence Strategy will contribute to the wider challenge of addressing disproportionality in the city, which contributes to some of the drivers of serious violence.
The impact of the approach outlined in the draft Serious Violence Strategy on protected characteristics is being considered through an equality impact assessment.(EIA)

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	This report will highlight how the work to achieve a reduction in serious violence and attitudinal change will contribute to ensuring neighbourhoods are safe and therefore a destination of choice for people to live, visit and work.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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### **Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy 2018  
 Greater Manchester Serious Violence Action Plan

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of progress made on developing Manchester's Serious Violence Strategy 2022 – 2025. It provides a summary of the ongoing consultation in the development of the strategy which is currently at the critical read stage. This report also outlines the draft strategic priorities and principles of delivery over the next 3 years, a copy of the draft strategy can be found at *Appendix 1*.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In April 2018 the Government published the national Serious Violence Strategy (include this as a background paper in the background docs section above) in response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide across England. The strategy represents a step change in how to think and respond to serious violence, establishing a new balance between prevention and law enforcement. It declares a call to action to partners from across different sectors to come together and adopt a whole system multi-agency approach to tackling and preventing serious violence at a local level.
- 2.2 In 2019 as part of the National Serious Violence Strategy, funding was identified to set up 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across the Country. The primary focus of VRU's is to ensure collaboration between Police, local authority community safety, education, and health professionals as well as community leaders and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to understand the root cause of serious violence at a local level taking a public health approach. Manchester's draft Serious Violence Strategy has been developed in partnership with Greater Manchester's VRU and is designed to complement the Greater Manchester Serious Violence Action Plan. The VRU key priorities for serious violence across the region are: -
- support an improved criminal justice response to all forms of serious violence.
  - support community and voluntary organisations to deliver activities and interventions in the areas of highest need.
  - ensure that families and communities affected by serious violence are supported through a place based offer.
  - ensure victims of violent crime receive appropriate and timely support.
  - create a dedicated Violence Reduction Unit for Greater Manchester.
  - work with Community Safety Partnerships and Local Safeguarding Boards to implement a place-based approach to tackling serious violence.
  - collaborate with schools, colleagues and alternative provision to tackle serious violence.

## **3.0 Serious Violence Duty**

- 3.1 In 2021 the Government released guidance in relation to a new Serious Violence Duty, expected to come into effect in January 2023. The duty brings with it several commitments and responsibilities for both Central and Local

Government, as well as named partners including police, justice (Youth Justice and Probation), health, education and fire and rescue services. The most recent draft guidance published in December 2021 requires responsible authorities to complete a Strategic Needs Assessment. This has been completed for Manchester and used to inform the priorities and key principles of delivery for the draft Serious Violence Strategy 2022-2055.

- 3.2 Central to the delivery of the strategy is ensuring that the voices of children, young people and our communities are heard. To ensure that we have developed an effective strategy with and for our communities we have completed formal consultation through the Community Safety Strategy consultation as well as obtaining feedback from Community Led Approaches across the city.

Community Safety Strategy Consultation - 90% of people consulted identified serious violence as a priority for action in their local area. In focus groups partners and residents told us that they wanted to see

- Earlier intervention for young people.
- Work in schools to support young people and prevent them being drawn into crime.
- Better communication between partner agencies.
- Action to address inequalities.
- Action to address domestic abuse and the cycle of violence.

In 2019 funding was allocated to commission youth providers to deliver interventions and to explore and evidence base approaches to tackling violence that impacts on young people. This included the RECLAIM report “listening to the experts” which explored what young people want and need to stay safe from violent crime. The results were used to inform the development of the strategy

Community Led projects on serious violence have been commissioned by the GM VRU and funded through the Youth Endowment fund. Work with local communities including young people from the was undertaken to understand what the community wanted to see in response to serious violence and the area that they live in. Several key themes have been identified including: -

- The need for sustainable youth provision
- Normalisation of weapons and violence
- Systemic racism
- Negative perception of the local area driven by detrimental press coverage
- Lack of employment and opportunity

- 3.3 We are continuing to engage with our communities and young people through VCS and Youth Justice to consult on our draft key priorities and principles for delivery. These groups are also engaged in the current process of critical read and feedback.

#### **4.0 Manchester's Approach – Key priorities and Principles for delivery**

4.1 To comply with the most recent guidance relating to the pending Serious Violence Duty, at the core of the strategy will be a public health approach ensuring that we: -

- Focus on the specific needs of Manchester.
- Work with and for communities.
- Are not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries.
- Focus on generating long term as well as short term solutions.
- Base our approach on data and intelligence to identify the burden on the population, including any inequalities.
- Have interventions which are rooted in evidence of effectiveness to tackle the problem.

4.2 Through consultation with communities, we have developed the following key priorities in our multi agency response to prevent and reduce serious violence:

##### **4.2.1 Early Intervention and Prevention**

- Working with partners to ensure we can identify those at risk of serious violence, as either victims and or perpetrators, at the earliest opportunity and offer timely and appropriate support.
- Continuing to identify and challenge inequalities within our systems and practices.
- Continuing to learn from reviews, national and local research and feedback from our partners and communities.

##### **4.2.2 Support and Protect**

We will ensure that those identified as being involved in serious violence, as victims and or perpetrators, are offered bespoke support to address their individual needs by:

- Identifying appropriate key workers to offer support who are well trained, knowledgeable, and confident.
- Partnership working to develop trusted relationships as the mechanism for creating safety and can be dynamic in their response to changing issues and risks.
- Ensure that positive interventions are available to support those affected by serious violence, their families, and their peers.

##### **4.2.3 Disrupt, Divert and Enforce**

Whilst our primary focus is on early intervention and prevention, We will continue to consider enforcement action against those who pose a risk to our communities through perpetrating serious violence by: -

- Taking a partnership approach to considering the appropriate use of enforcement powers to prevent individuals perpetrating serious violence.
- Consider enforcement action against those who exploit others into committing criminality and serious violence.
- Ensuring that any enforcement action is coupled with an offer of support to allow those involved to divert from serious violence.

4.3 Principles of delivery – Each of the priorities will be delivered utilising the following principles: -

- Trauma informed - front line staff whose practice is informed by trauma will enhance the response to those who experience and or perpetrate serious violence.
- Think family - It is important that families, particularly those with multiple and complex needs, have access to co-ordinated Early Help in accordance with need as soon as difficulties are identified. The offer is personalised, multi-agency, and embedded within a Whole Family approach.
- Youth and Community Voice - ensure that the voice of those most impacted by serious violence continue to be at the centre of our approach. The involvement of young people and communities in both understanding the prevalence of violence and the mechanisms to address it. This has been modelled through the community led pilots, the work undertaken by Reclaim and the VCS.

4.4 To comply with the most recent guidance in relation to the Serious Violence Duty it is anticipated that this strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that we can monitor the effectiveness of the strategy and develop our response to any new and emerging trends or threats relating to serious violence in Manchester.

4.5 The delivery of the Serious Violence Strategy will be governed by the Serious Violence Board. This will include approving delivery plans, commissioning activity and analysis, monitoring activity and outcomes in line with the key priorities and principles of delivery.

4.6 The Serious Violence Board will report directly to the Community Safety Partnership Board and will share information with the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership and Health and wellbeing Board for assurance.

4.7 An Equality Impact Assessment relating to the Serious Violence Strategy has been drafted and is available on request.

## 5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The committee is invited to consider and comment on the information contained within this report.