

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - 9 January 2024
Executive – 17 January 2024

Subject: Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Serious Youth Violence

Report of: Strategic Director (Children and Education Services)

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Manchester City Council Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee of the findings from the recent JTAI in respect of Serious Youth Violence and next steps.

Between 25th September 2023 and 13th October 2023 Manchester was subject to the first of 6 JTAI to be carried out nationally and which will focus on Serious Youth Violence.

The inspection was led by Ofsted and involved a total of 12 inspectors from CQC (Health and Care), Ofsted (Schools and Social Care), HMPI (Youth Justice) and HMICFRS (Police, Fire and Rescue). In addition, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) were also engaged as a key partner.

The inspection considered 3 broad areas.

1. **Strategic Partnership responses to serious youth violence** (how well do we work together, understand and respond to issues in Manchester)
2. **Intervention with Individual and groups of children** affected by serious youth violence and criminal exploitation (how do we provide timely, purposeful and impact positively into children and their family's lives)
3. **Intervention in places and spaces** (contextual safeguarding and how we use intelligence to inform activity and disrupt)

The inspection identified the governance arrangements for Serious Violence in the city to be a strength, stating *“Effective and mature partnership arrangements between agencies are supporting a coordinated and comprehensive multi-agency response to serious youth violence. A strong learning culture enables the partnership to identify where improvements are needed and work together to address these. There is a well-understood strategy in place and much purposeful activity which is reducing risks to children... There is an increasingly strong focus on prevention and early intervention to tackle serious youth violence in Manchester. There are a significant number of innovative interventions and projects which are making a positive difference for children.”*

Inspectors described the work of Manchester's Complex Safeguarding Hub as “strong and effective.” The Hub is where police officers, social workers, health

professionals and other experts work alongside each other to identify children at risk of becoming and/or involved with serious violence/criminal exploitation and put intervention measures in place (often working with wider families as well as the individual young person) to prevent harm.

There was also recognition for the work undertaken by and in partnership with Manchester Youth Zone.

Whilst recognising the strength of Manchester’s partnerships and 8 areas of strength, the report also identified 6 areas for improvement. These included enhanced multi-agency evaluation of projects to understand better how they work together as part of an overall system and more consistency in information recording and sharing between partners.

A requirement of the inspection is for a multi-agency action plan to be developed in response to the 6 areas identified for improvement.

The full report can be found at appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

Recommendations

The Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the report and the inspection findings outlined therein and explore the strengths and areas for improvement.
2. Consider and comment on the draft multi-agency plan.

The Executive is recommended to:

1. To consider the observations of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.
2. To consider and comment on the inspection report findings and draft action plan.

Wards Affected: All

<p>Environmental Impact Assessment -the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments</p>	<p>Manchester’s strategic planning and delivery in response to serious violence has engaged young people from a diverse range of communities and identity. Services continue to strive to improve the cultural competence in how we deliver to our children, young people and communities.</p>

	Consequently, whilst progress is evident it will remain a priority area for continued focus.
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Effective support for young people is critical so they are diverted away from involvement with serious violence and risks are mitigated; encouraging them to connect, provide support, contribute and be part of Manchester as a thriving and sustainable City.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Ensuring our young people are given the opportunity to access immediate support enables a timely assessment of need to ensure the right support at the right time is provided.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Building a trusted relationship with young people helps builds their resilience, recover from trauma which is needed to enable their potential to be achieved.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Improving outcomes for young people dispersed across the city helps build and develop communities
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	It is important as a city we are responsive to ensuring our young people have high-quality opportunities and benefit so they can be successful and be an active member and contributor to Manchester City and local communities.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

N/A

Financial Consequences – Capital

N/A

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

N/A

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 29th August 2023 Ofsted published the inspection guidance/framework for a JTAI in respect of Serious Youth Violence which would focus on how the police, children's social care, education, youth offending services and relevant health services in local areas work together to address and prevent serious youth violence. The inspectorates will consider interventions with individual and groups of children to see how well agencies help them and reduce the risk of serious youth violence.
- 1.2 The JTAs will also consider multi-agency interventions in places such as parks, streets and shopping malls, where individual or groups of children are at risk, to improve safety for children and for communities.
- 1.3 On 25th October 2023 Manchester was notified it would be subject to a JTAI in respect of Serious Youth Violence, making it the first in the country to be subject to this new inspection framework.
- 1.4 In addition to individual local area reports with Manchester's being published on 30th November 2023, an overview summary of the thematic will be published. It is anticipated this will be during 2024.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The inspection guidance for a JTAI which can be access via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-targeted-area-inspections-of-the-multi-agency-response-to-serious-youth-violence/joint-targeted-area-inspections-of-the-multi-agency-response-to-serious-youth-violence> outlines the national context, impact for children, families and communities impacted by serious violence and factors that can contribute to prevalence of serious violence.

3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 The overall findings from the JTAI in respect of Serious Youth Violence were positive identifying the following areas of strength within Manchester.
 - Robust multi-agency arrangements with clear accountabilities and a well understood strategy are leading to many children receiving a range of effective responses to address serious youth violence.
 - A significant number of innovative approaches and interventions developed and managed by the partnership are making a positive difference to children's lives.
 - A culture of professional challenge and shared learning is helping to enable improvements in practice and in the impact of services.
 - The views and aspirations of children are generally well understood. Professionals are developing a progressively more accurate, shared

understanding of children's lives and of the effect on them of experiencing serious violence and exploitation.

- A consistently strong approach to building relationships with children is supporting effective interventions to reduce risk.
- Most partner agencies have a good understanding of the range of risks from serious youth violence and criminal exploitation faced by children, and this enables them to offer a range of appropriate support aimed at reducing risks.
- An effective approach is in place for prevention and early intervention, and to support the engagement of schools. There is an increasingly good mentoring offer that is making a positive difference for children.
- The CSH delivers strong multi-agency working that, overall, provides effective expertise, advice, help and intervention for children at significant risk of serious youth violence and exploitation.

3.2 In addition, the following 6 areas were identified as areas for improvement and in response a multi-agency action plan has been developed. The delivery of this will be overseen by the Community Safety and Manchester Safeguarding Partnerships.

- How effectively the arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of serious youth violence support the partnership in implementing its strategy.
- How well the strong strategic intent to address the disproportionate impact of serious youth violence and criminal exploitation on children from some ethnic backgrounds and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) has been translated into positive change for children.
- The specificity and thoroughness of plans, and how effectively they are implemented, reviewed, and developed so that children get the right help at the right time.
- How consistently professionals look beyond the needs of an individual child, for whose safety or welfare there may be concerns, and consider risks to the wider group of children, such as brothers, sisters and peers associated with that child.
- The consistency with which key information is recorded and shared between partners to enable effective decision-making.
- The awareness of professionals about the range of services that are on offer to support the emotional well-being and mental health of children at risk from serious youth violence or criminal exploitation, as well as waiting times to receive therapeutic treatment as part of the core child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee:

- Consider the report and the inspection findings outlined therein and explore the strengths and areas for improvement.
- Consider and comment on the draft multi-agency plan.

4.2 It is recommended that the Executive:

- Consider the observations of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.
- Consider and comment on the inspection report findings and draft action plan.

5.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Manchester's final Joint Targeted Area Inspection Report

Appendix 2 - JTAI Action Plan