



SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP AGENDA



Friday 14 March 2025

at 12noon
or immediately following the
Informal Safer Hartlepool Partnership
whichever is the latter

in Committee Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

Responsible Authority Members:

Councillor Harrison, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillor Oliver, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council
Denise McGuckin, Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
Tony Hanson, Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council
Detective Chief Inspector Alan O'Donoghue, Cleveland Police (VC)
Jo Heaney, Chair of Youth Offending Board
Gordon Bentley, Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)
Ann Powell, Head of Stockton and Hartlepool Probation Delivery Unit
Sean Smith, Cleveland Fire Authority

Other Members:

Jonathan Brash, MP for Hartlepool (C)
Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council
Matt Storey, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Michelle Hill, Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector Representative, Safer Communities
Angela Corner, Head of Community Resilience, Thirteen Group
Sally Robinson, Executive Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services, Hartlepool Borough Council
Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

Non-Voting Observer, Councillor Jorgeson, Representative of Audit and Governance Committee, Hartlepool Borough Council

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**



3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2025.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews - *Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services*
- 4.2 Tees Domestic Abuse Perpetration Strategy - OPCC (contact – Tracey Brittain tracey.brittain@cleveland.police.uk)
- 4.3 SHP Action Plan - *Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*

5. FACE THE PUBLIC

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Date and time of next meeting: to be confirmed.



SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

31 January 2025

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Jonathan Brash, MP for Hartlepool (C)
Councillor Harrison, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillor Oliver, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council
Detective Chief Inspector Alan O'Donoghue, Cleveland Police (VC)
Karen Hawkins, Director of Place, Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)
Sean Smith, Cleveland Fire Authority
Anna Waddington, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Councillor Jorgeson, Representative of Audit and Governance Committee, Hartlepool Borough Council
Joan Stevens, Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Manager

23. Apologies for Absence

Denise McGuckin, Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
Tony Hanson, Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council
Jo Heaney, Chair of Youth Offending Board
Ann Powell, Head of Stockton and Hartlepool Probation Delivery Unit
Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council
Matt Storey, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Michelle Hill, Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector Representative, Safer Communities
Angela Corner, Head of Community Resilience, Thirteen Group
Sally Robinson, Executive Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services, Hartlepool Borough Council
Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

24. Declarations of Interest

None.

25. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2024

Confirmed

26. Community Safety Plan 2024 – 2027 - *Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*

Purpose of report

To present and seek approval from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership for the final draft of the Community Safety Plan 2024-27.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) has a statutory requirement, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, to develop and implement a Community Safety Strategy.

The Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) presented the Community Safety Plan 2024-27 to the partnership, outlining the process for its development and its content in relation to:

- Recent activities to improve community safety in Hartlepool;
- Key findings from the Partnership's Strategic Assessment;
- Proposed strategic objective (To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit); and
- Priorities (Anti-social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol, Domestic Violence and Abuse and Serious Violence).

Attention was drawn to the findings of the consultation undertaken in relation to the first draft of the plan, with reference to:

- Reducing crime and reoffending. Concern was expressed regarding the issue of hyper prolific offenders and the importance of the provision of support outside the provision of custodial sentences to prevent reoffending.
- Provide greater visible police and warden presence. Details were provided of changes to arrangements for police officers / PCSO cover across Wards (including shift patterns), that will see an increased police presence. The Partnership welcomed the assurance that there would be a police presence in each Ward, each day, and highlighted the need to promote this effectively to residents.
- Challenge behaviours that make women and girls feel unsafe. The Partnership reiterated its concern regarding this behaviour, and it was recommended that further work be undertaken as a local

authority to explore how (including consultations and work with community groups) and that the information obtained be utilised to develop a mechanism to challenge this behaviour.

It was also acknowledged that:

- The 2015 IMD data contained within the plan is the most up to date data available.
- It is important to develop / implement a robust action plan in response to the priorities contained within the Community Safety Plan. The action plan to include a response to the ramp action plan also developed by the partnership and be presented to the partnership in March.
- The roll out locally of the national Police Guarantee Scheme needed to be progressed.

Decision

- i) That the Community Safety Plan 2024/27 be approved.
- ii) That work be undertaken as a local authority to explore how a mechanism can be developed to challenge behaviours that make women and girls feel unsafe.
- iii) That a workshop be held with partners to discuss the work that is already being carried out in relation to domestic violence, and challenging behaviours that make women and girls feel unsafe, and action plans developed.
- iv) That the process for approval of strategies and plans via the Councils budget and policy framework be reviewed in order to simplify / shorten the process.

27. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None

The meeting concluded at 2.30pm.

CHAIR



SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

14 March 2025



Report of: Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services

Subject: LEARNING FROM SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

Hartlepool will be a place:

- where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives.
- where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To share learning from the national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews with members of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, in particular the recommendations that relate to how Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) work more effectively with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The second national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) was funded by the Local Government Association (LGA), the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and Partners in Care and Health (PCH) and was published in July 2024.
- 3.2 The purpose of the analysis was to identify priorities for sector-led improvement as a result of learning from SARs completed between 2019 and 2023, a period of time that included the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 3.3 The analysis builds on the findings of the first national analysis, published in 2020, which considered learning from SARs completed between 2017 and 2019.
- 3.4 Taken together, the analyses provide a significant knowledge base about adult safeguarding in England across all types of abuse and neglect. They highlight both the shifts that have taken place and the challenges that endure.
- 3.5 The analysis is in three stages:

Stage 1 report: Case characteristics; nature of the abuse and neglect; SAR reviewing process

Stage one of the analysis considers the quantitative data from 652 review reports, reporting on the characteristics of the individuals involved, the types of abuse and neglect they experienced, and the nature of the SAR process.

Stage 2 report: Analysis of learning

Stage two focuses on the in-depth, detailed learning identified in a stratified sample of 229 SAR reports.

Stage 3 report: Conclusions and improvement priorities

The final stage of the analysis draws together conclusions from the analysis overall and identifies priorities for sector-led improvement.

- 3.6 An executive summary has also been produced which identifies the headline findings, drawing on the detail contained in three main reports. The reports and executive summary can be accessed using the following link: [Second national analysis of Safeguarding Adult Reviews: April 2019 - March 2023 | Local Government Association](#)

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The national analysis of SARs recommends that SABs:
- Engage with community safety and other partnerships to promote awareness of forced marriage, female genital mutilation, county lines and radicalisation as issues that may invoke adult safeguarding concerns.
 - Share information/safeguarding procedures as part of awareness campaigns.
 - Make adult safeguarding training available to CSP networks.
 - Ensure effective partnership working operationally and strategically between community safety and adult safeguarding practitioners and managers.
- 4.2 These actions have been considered by the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) and it was recognised that there has been significant progress made in terms of engagement, awareness raising and sharing information, as well as in promoting effective operational and strategic working relationships.

- 4.3 It was highlighted that adult safeguarding training was available to all partners and noted that information on available training should be better promoted. A leaflet summarising training and other resources provided through TSAB is attached as **Appendix 1** and all Safer Hartlepool Partnership members are encouraged to access training and promote training and resources as appropriate.
- 4.4 It was also acknowledged that there may be opportunities for further collaborative working on issues that have implications for both the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and TSAB, and any feedback on areas where this could be explored would be welcome.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no risk implications associated with this report. The purpose of sharing the report with the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is to improve effective working relationships which assists with improved management if risk.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations identified.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal considerations identified.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 No child and family poverty considerations have been identified associated with this report, although it is recognised that there are links between the work of TSAB and Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality and diversity implications specifically associated with this report. People with protected characteristics can be more vulnerable to abuse and TSAB policies and procedures address equality and diversity considerations so that the safeguarding process takes this into account.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no staffing considerations.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 There are no asset management considerations.

12. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

12.1 There are no environment, sustainability and climate change considerations.

13. RECOMMENDATION

13.1 It is recommended that members of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership note the learning from the national analysis of SARs and consider opportunities for improving effective partnership working.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

14.1 The national analysis of SARs makes recommendations regarding more effective working between SABs and CSPs.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

Jill Harrison
Executive Director of Adult & Community Based Services
Hartlepool Borough Council

John Lovat
Assistant Director of Adult Social Care
Hartlepool Borough Council

What should I do?

If you see or hear something that concerns you, or you suspect somebody is being abused, or someone tells you they are being abused. Report it without delay:

See It, Report It!

If you suspect a neighbour, friend or family member is being neglected or abused, or you need help yourself.

Call Cleveland Police 101 or 999 in an emergency

Call your local Adult Social Care Team:

Hartlepool	01429 523 390
Middlesbrough	01642 065 070
Redcar & Cleveland	01642 771 500
Stockton-on-Tees	01642 527 764
Evenings & Weekends	01642 524 552

If you are unsure, talk to your local adult social care team on the above number, they will listen to you and give you good advice. You can talk to them without giving your name. Alternatively you can report suspected abuse and neglect using a Concern Form found here: <https://www.tsab.org.uk/report-abuse/>

Think Family

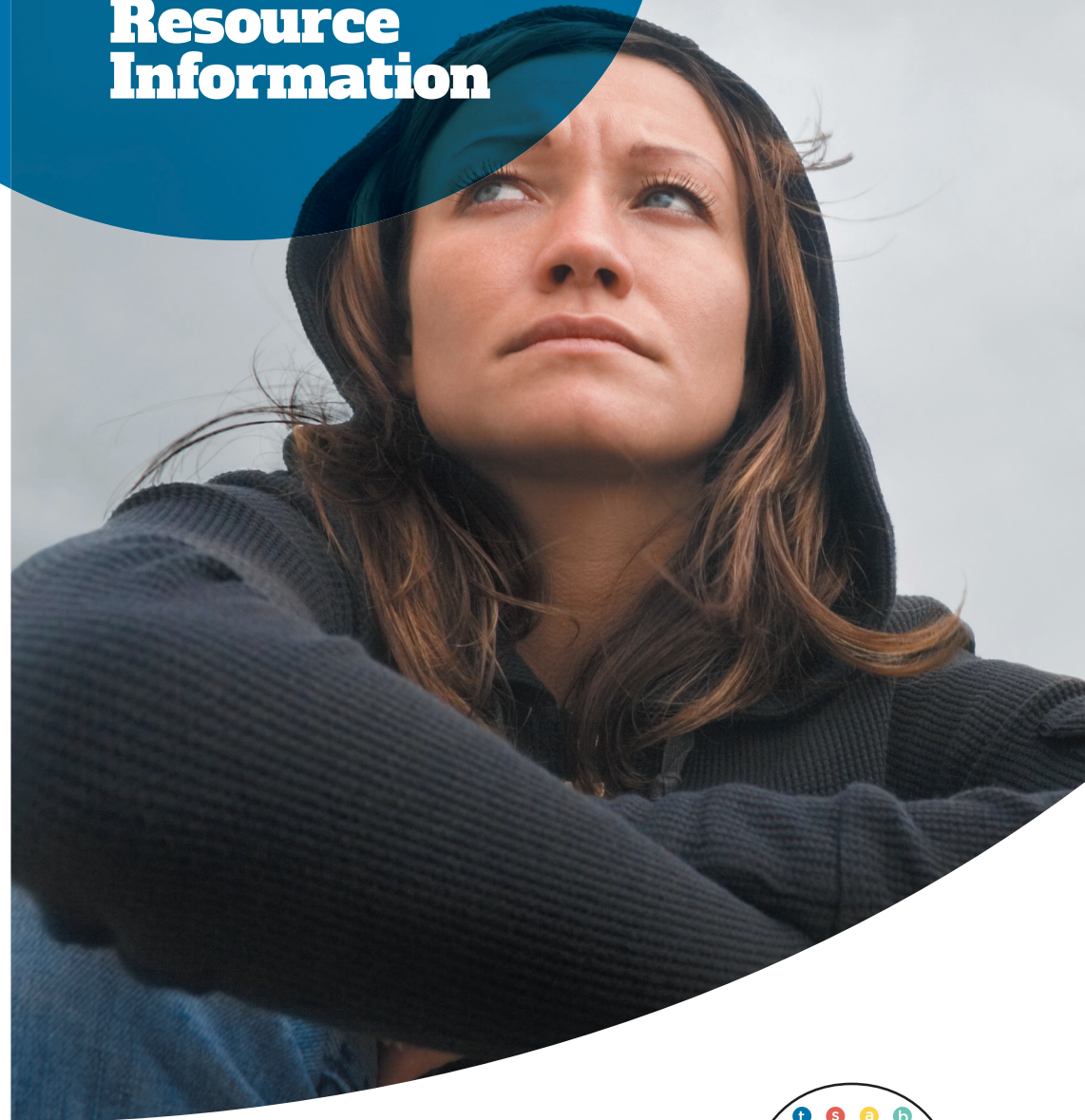
Consider risks to others which may include children or other adults with care and support needs. Should there be a concern that a parent may be neglecting children in their care, concerns should be reported to Children's Social Care. Contact numbers can be found here: <http://www.teescpp.org.uk/>.

More information and an interactive map of locations can be found here:

<https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/find-support-in-your-area>

Updated: March 2022

Preventing Adult Abuse Resource Information



www.tsab.org.uk

**Our safeguarding arrangements will effectively
prevent and respond to adult abuse**



The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) has a number of free resources available to help prevent Adult Abuse and Neglect across Tees. Please feel free to share this document within your organisation, it can be found here:

<https://www.tsab.org.uk/professionals/posters/>

TSAB Policy, Procedures and Guidance

Local Policies, Strategies, Procedures and Guidance can be found on the TSAB website:

<https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/policies-strategies/>

Of particular interest:

- **Inter-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy**
- **Inter-Agency Safeguarding Adults Procedure**
- **Information Sharing Agreement**
- **Decision Support Guidance**
- **MCA and DoLS Policy**
- **Medication Incidents - Guidance for Commissioners**
- **Medication Incidents - Guidance for Providers**
- **Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Policy & Procedures**
- **Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy**
- **Incidents between Residents Guidance**

Training Resources

- **E-Learning** – <https://www.tsab.org.uk/training/> Free E-learning 'Teeswide Safeguarding All' suite of e-learning safeguarding courses across Children and Adults in conjunction with Me-Learning.
- **Workbooks** - <https://www.tsab.org.uk/professionals/training-resources/> Can be printed from the website and completed at your leisure. Workbooks include: Safeguarding Adults Awareness, Learning from Serious Instances of Abuse and Neglect, The Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Prevent, Modern Slavery, Self-Neglect.
- **Current Training Events** – <https://www.tsab.org.uk/professionals/events-key-dates/> Current courses include Making Safeguarding Personal and Safeguarding Adults Training for Managers of Services. Please keep checking the website as it is updated regularly.

Please help to prevent further adult abuse

There is also lots of information available on the prevention of abuse which can be found in the Whole Community Approach: Preventing Adult Abuse and Neglect leaflet: <https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/posters/>

Find out about what is happening across Tees via our Website and Social Media Channels:



<https://www.tsab.org.uk/>



<https://www.facebook.com/TeeswideSAB/>



<https://twitter.com/TeeswideSAB>



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMxNFNZsoxlc3YZEVXisx_w

Playlist of useful videos all linked to adult safeguarding work

Communication and Promotional Materials

- **Leaflets and Posters** - <https://www.tsab.org.uk/professionals/posters/> Including the Protecting Adults from Abuse and Neglect Leaflet in 7 different languages.
- **Video** - <https://www.tsab.org.uk/professionals/posters/> The Adults' Voice Video details the content included within the Protecting Adults from Abuse and Neglect Leaflet.
- **Newsletters** - <https://www.tsab.org.uk/professionals/newsletters/> If you would like to receive our newsletters please complete this short form <https://www.tsab.org.uk/disclaimer-privacy-statement/>.

Find support in your area

Support can be accessed from a range of organisations based locally across Tees, as well as nationally, which are specifically set up to help people affected by the issues linked to adult abuse and neglect.

All of the main local providers of support services are mapped by Borough and type of abuse and neglect via this webpage: <https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/find-support-in-your-area/>



Tees-wide Tackling Domestic Abuse Perpetration Strategy 2025 - 2035

DRAFT

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Vision
3. Overview and definition
4. National and Local Intelligence Picture
5. Strategic Priorities
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 - Priority 2 Protect
 - Priority 3 Pursue
6. Activities and Measures
7. Public Health Approach
8. Implementation and Governance
9. Link Supporting Documents¹

Commented [BT1]: All appendices and a practitioners toolkit will be available to agencies via a link on the TSAB learning portal. This will also allow for updates through the duration of the strategy.

¹ All appendices and a Practitioners Toolkit will be available to agencies via a link on the TSAB learning portal. This will also allow for updates through the duration of the strategy.

1. Introduction

In 2020/21, alongside the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021)² and the national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy³ the government committed to publish a national perpetrator strategy⁴ to set out its commitment and approach to:

- Detecting, investigating, and prosecuting domestic abuse offences
- Assessing and managing the risks posed by individuals who commit domestic abuse offences including domestic abuse related talking.
- Reducing the risk of repeat domestic abuse offences.

At the current time, Spring 2025, a national perpetrator strategy remains unpublished. When the national strategy is available, we will cross-reference our Tees-wide strategy.

In recent years, domestic abuse has created significant and increasing demand on agencies across Tees, this has resulted in recognition of the need for the current local partnership arrangements around domestic abuse to reflect the efficiencies that could be realised from a more joined-up approach at a Tees-wide level. Throughout 2023/4 the Cleveland Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), supported by Tees Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) coordinated discussions between senior representatives from a range of agencies, and held an event which brought senior partners together⁵ to explore the appetite for a single strategic level Tees-wide Domestic Abuse Board. These discussions failed to reach consensus for a Tees-wide Board, this was specifically influenced by the statutory requirement placed on local authorities to convene local level Strategic Domestic Abuse Partnerships at local authority level.⁶ However, discussions between the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Police, and leaders within the four Local Authorities reached an agreement to collaborate at a Tees-wide level on two key themes: the existing Tees-wide Strategic MARAC Partnership and through the development of a Tees-wide Tackling Perpetration Strategy and delivery plan, to be facilitated by the OPCC, to provide coordination across partnership forums regarding our system-wide response to tackling domestic abuse.

This strategy has been developed collaboratively with support and input from a wide range of partners and, following feedback invited through a wide range of existing partnerships,⁷ and victim-survivor service user groups across Tees. The duration of

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021>

³ [Tackling violence against women and girls' strategy - GOV.UK](#)

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/tackling-perpetrators>

⁵ Cleveland OPCC held an event on 5 June 2024 between partners and strategic leaders with responsibility for DA across Tees to discuss appetite for a single strategic board to coordinate DA activity across the Cleveland Police Force area.

⁶ Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) requires local authorities in England to appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board. The board's role is to advise the local authority on how to support victims of domestic abuse.

⁷ Local Criminal Justice Partnership, Tees Safeguarding Adults Board, Joint Executive Children's Safeguarding Boards, Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, Cleveland Women's Network

the strategy will align with the commitment made by government in 2024 to halve violence against women and girls over the next decade. The strategy and a delivery plan, which will be co-produced by partners and, where appropriate and possible, those with lived experience of domestic abuse and representatives of the public,⁸ will be reviewed annually. The delivery of this strategy will be facilitated and coordinated by the OPCC, and overseen by a multi-agency delivery group, to ensure accountability, system-wide collaboration and alignment with broader strategies. Governance of the strategy will be provided by Cleveland's Local Criminal Justice Partnership through the production of an annual performance report.

2. Vision

The vision for this strategy is:

'That all adults and children in Teesside are safe from the harm, fear and control associated with domestic abuse'.

3. Overview and Definition

We will deliver our vision by working together to tackle perpetrators, and to challenge the systemic contributors, and societal attitudes that enable domestic abuse to occur and endure⁹. We will be informed by, research, evidence-based approaches, victim-survivor voices, those with lived experience, and agencies with expertise. The strategy will work towards enabling all sectors, agencies, and communities to share responsibility for addressing the perpetration of domestic abuse through a delivery plan which focuses on, prevention, early intervention, and disruption of perpetrators, to protect victims and communities. We aim to hold perpetrators to account, bring more perpetrators to justice, and resource upstream activities.¹⁰ We will also seek to reduce the systemic and societal enablers which contribute to escalation in risk and harm associated with perpetration, and repeat victims and perpetrators.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) outlines the complexity and intersection between domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG), broadening the definition of harms experienced by victim-survivors. Domestic abuse includes a wide range of harmful behaviours including, but not limited to, homicide, physical and sexual violence, rape, coercive control¹¹, economic, verbal and psychological abuse,

⁸ Delivery Plan developed and reviewed annually at a co-design workshop with invitations extended to partner agencies and representatives from victim service user groups and general public via an expression of interest and selection process.

⁹ Systemic failings are failures that affect multiple parts of a system, or that are caused by a widespread issue within an organisation or set of organisations. These can include policy weaknesses, under resourcing, unconscious bias, under prepared workforce etc.

¹⁰ Upstream activities refer to proactive, preventive measures that address the root causes and societal factors contributing to domestic abuse perpetration. These activities aim to change cultural norms, policies, and social structures that enable abuse.

¹¹ Under the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), coercive control is recognised as a form of domestic abuse and refers to a pattern of controlling, manipulative, or threatening behaviour that restricts a victim's freedom and independence.

domestic abuse related stalking¹², non-fatal strangulation,¹³ 'so-called' honour-based abuse¹⁴ and cultural harms¹⁵ including, female genital mutilation (FGM)¹⁶ and forced marriage¹⁷.

These behaviours may be perpetrated by, an intimate partner, a family member, children (under or over 18 years) towards a parent/carer or another significantly connected relationship¹⁸. Actions rarely occur in isolation and often include a combination of the above which may escalate in frequency, severity, and harm over time.

We acknowledge that language and labels are problematic, however, this strategy will use the term perpetrator or harmer interchangeably¹⁹. We define a perpetrator of domestic abuse as a person that has caused harm and where the harmer and connected victim have a personal connection - as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act (2021). There are a range of typical typologies which seek to explain a variety of behaviours used by perpetrators of domestic abuse²⁰.

Domestic abuse often occurs where the perpetrator is in, or creates, a more powerful position than the person who is being abused. Abuse occurs when the perpetrator misuses such power either intentionally or unintentionally for their own benefit or gain. The perpetrator may assume more power, create more power, or have more power

¹² The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) includes harassment or stalking when the perpetrator and victim are 16 or over and "personally connected". For example, it may constitute physical abuse, threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, or emotional or psychological abuse. There is no statutory definition of harassment, but it includes repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a victim, in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear. It is generally acknowledged that harassment involves behaviour that is intended to cause a person alarm or distress or to cause them to fear violence when the perpetrator knows or ought to know that their conduct amounts to harassment. Where there is evidence to show that such conduct has occurred on more than one occasion, the perpetrator could be prosecuted under the [Protection from Harassment Act 1997](#).

¹³ The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) introduced a specific criminal offence for non-fatal strangulation (Section 70, effective from June 2022), recognising it as a distinct and serious form of domestic abuse. A person commits the offence if they intentionally strangle another person or otherwise affect their breathing (e.g. by suffocation or obstruction).

¹⁴ [So-Called Honour-Based Abuse | The Crown Prosecution Service](#)

¹⁵ The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) does not explicitly define "cultural harms" as a standalone legal term. However, the Act recognises that domestic abuse can take many forms, including harmful cultural practices that contribute to coercive control, violence, and oppression within certain communities.

¹⁶ [Female genital mutilation](#)

¹⁷ [Forced marriage - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁸ [Domestic Abuse Act \(2021\)](#) . Section 2 of the Act defines 'Personally Connected' persons to establish who can be considered a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse.

¹⁹ We wrestled with the issues associated with the term perpetrator but decided to use it as the dominant term in the strategy for clarity and consistency of understanding across agencies and communities. It is assumed that most people understand the term perpetrator and to use another term could be confusing.

²⁰ An overview of perpetrator typologies and behaviours are available within the supporting documents to the strategy which are available to practitioners. Source: [\(PDF\) A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence by Michael P. Johnson](#)

than the victim, the perpetrator may also be an adult at risk.²¹ Some perpetrators will deliberately seek out partners who are vulnerable so that they can exploit or manipulate this.

Whilst the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) recognises children as victims, it does not recognise those under the age of 16 years as perpetrators. This proves problematic to agencies identifying, flagging²² or responding to violence and/or risky behaviours in children and young people. This requires an understanding of the range of factors influencing the cause of such attitudes and behaviour. However, the identification of concerning attitudes and behaviours in children and young people does need to be addressed, and where necessary and proportionate, shared between agencies to facilitate risk management and victim protection.

Concerns around the attitudes and behaviours of children and young people require a response which avoids labelling, adultifying²³ young people and, that is age appropriate. Interventions must ensure that, whosoever is engaged with tackling such attitudes and behaviours, is appropriately skilled to do so, whilst avoiding unintentional harm to children and young people.²⁴ Therefore, this strategy will include, and recognise that, abuse, violence, coercive control and stalking (in the context of the DA Act) can be, and is, a feature of harm used by children and young people within intimate, or other connected relationships. This includes, sibling abuse, abuse in adolescent intimate relationships, and child and adolescent violence and/or abuse (CAPVA) towards adult parent/care givers.²⁵

Perpetrators of abuse can be male or female, although, consistently, world-wide statistics evidence that domestic abuse is a gendered issue affecting victim-survivors who are predominantly female, and perpetrators who are predominantly male. However, we recognise the nuance around victims' under-reporting, recording and statistical data, and acknowledge that males can be victims, perpetrators can be female, and that the dynamics of relationally 'connected persons' as defined within the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) includes, same-sex perpetration and victimisation and, in the context of cultural harms, may involve more than one perpetrator²⁶ per victim-

²¹ Under the Care Act 2014, an "adult at risk" is defined as an individual who is aged 18 or over, has care and support needs (whether they receive support from a local authority or not), is at risk of, or experiencing, abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves from that abuse or neglect due to their care and support needs

²² Flags used on agency case management systems or digital records to identify specific identifiers in an individual.

²³ While adultification is discussed across literature (Stephen, 1999; Burton, 2007; Goff, 2014; Ocen; 2015; Smitz and Tyler, 2016; Epstein et al., 2017), there is only one explanation which explicitly defines adultification in the context of children's rights. Davis and Marsh (2020) define adultification as: 'The concept of adultification is when notions of innocence and vulnerability are not afforded to certain children. This is determined by people and institutions who hold power over them. When adultification occurs outside of the home it is always founded within discrimination and bias. There are various definitions of adultification, all relate to a child's personal characteristics, socio-economic influences and/or lived experiences. Regardless of the context in which adultification take place, the impact results in children's rights being either diminished or not upheld. [Adultification bias within child protection and safeguarding](#)

²⁴ [Understanding violence in young people: explanations, approaches and resources catch-22.org.uk](#)

²⁵ There is no legal definition for Child/ Adolescence to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA), however it can be defined as a pattern of harmful, and in some cases, controlling, behaviour by children or adolescents towards parents or caregivers (Domestic Abuse Commissioner)

²⁶ So called 'honour' based abuse (HBA) can include numerous family members exercising control over a victim.

survivor.²⁷ Perpetrators and victims represent every section of society, social class and, includes those with or without protected characteristics.²⁸ We recognise that; where victims or perpetrators have a protected characteristic, there may be additional impacts to consider, rooted in the experiences of those with multiple layers of inequality, disadvantage and discrimination, known as intersectionality.²⁹ However, perpetration occurs where there are patterns of behaviour commonly exhibited by the perpetrator towards the victim. This is known as the pattern-based behaviour approach.³⁰ Some perpetrators do not recognise their attitudes and behaviours are abusive, however, regardless of the contributory factors, all perpetrators should be held responsible and accountable for the harm they have caused. This requires appropriate assessment of perpetrators to ensure that any interventions are responsive to the risk, need, and responsivity of the individual, and include an understanding of the context of any protected characteristics and experience of intersectionality when assessing the best approach to supporting achievable and sustainable change.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) significantly increased the scope of behaviours and actions affecting victims, recognising threats to disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (Revenge Pornography), non-fatal strangulation - and disallowing consent to serious harm for sexual gratification as a defence. The revisions to the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) also refer to behaviours such as stalking and harassment, rape and sexual violence, and cultural harms under the domestic abuse definition. The Act acknowledges that coercive control can be a pattern of behaviour with no physical injury element. In response to these changes, and because there is no specific offence of domestic abuse, we recognise the need to raise awareness and confidence across the wider workforce, in a range of settings, to support increased recognition of perpetrator pattern-based behaviours.

²⁷ [The Istanbul Convention](#), ratified by the UK in 2022, acknowledges that domestic abuse disproportionately affects women and requires gender-specific responses.

[Position statement on male victims of crimes considered in the cross-Government strategy on ending Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

²⁸ The Equality Act 2010 protects individuals from discrimination based on nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

²⁹ Intersectionality is the concept that all oppression is linked. More explicitly, the [Oxford Dictionary](#) defines intersectionality as "the interconnected nature of social categorisations such as race, class, and gender, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage". Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and oppression, and we must consider everything and anything that can marginalise people – gender, race, class, sexual orientation, physical ability, etc. First coined by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw back in 1989, intersectionality was added to the Oxford Dictionary in 2015 with its importance increasingly being recognised in the world of women's rights.

³⁰ A perpetrator pattern-based approach is based on principle that perpetrator behaviour and choices are identified as sole source of harm, and that perpetrator is exclusively responsible for behaviours and choices. The approach rests on ability of practitioners to identify, articulate, assess, and record the specific behaviours of the perpetrator and the impact and harm it has on the victim/s. It looks beyond the current relationship to take in whole picture to map out the perpetrator's patterns of behaviour.

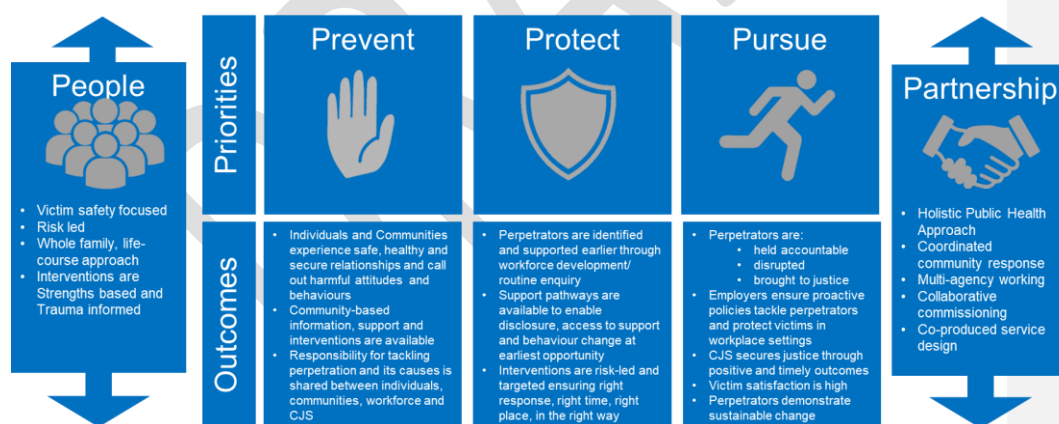
4. National and Local Intelligence Picture

See separate attachment. Info graphic will be inserted here

5. Strategic Priorities

Our efforts to work towards the reduction and elimination of perpetration in our communities, and the need to shift responsibility from victim-survivors, will require system-wide collaboration which values the collective role and shared-responsibility of citizens, communities, organisations and government to deliver a Coordinated Community Response (CCR).³¹ This approach recognises that structures, policies, adequate resourcing, and integrated interventions are critical to harm prevention, early intervention, sustainable behaviour change and victim safety.

We will commit to reducing domestic abuse, and the harm caused by its prevalence, by increasing the visibility of perpetrators within our collective work to address domestic abuse and by addressing the conditions and attitudes that enable it to continue. We will do this through three key priorities using a public health approach recognising the critical role of people and partnerships.



6. Activities and Key Measures

³¹ A CCR brings services together to ensure local systems truly keep victim-survivors safe, hold perpetrators to account and prevent domestic abuse. [What is a CCR? — Standing Together](#)

Activities and key performance measures to support the above priorities and outcomes, will be included in a co-produced delivery plan, developed by a multi-agency group who will also oversee delivery of the plan. The delivery plan will be developed around a Theory of Change³² and will be reviewed, and revised annually, to ensure any updates in research, policy, best-practice guidance and lived-experience input is reflected in progress against the plan.

Activities around key themes may include, but will not be limited to:

- Collaborative data sharing, needs assessment and commissioning intentions - 12 core elements of an effective coordinated community response
- Communications and campaigns
- Life course and system-wide approaches to education, awareness and practice
- Optimising reach and collaboration in settings (private sector, employer engagement, faith and VCSE, communities, citizens)
- System-wide workforce development and routine enquiry – building a competent and confident workforce
- Toolkits for practitioners
- Early mechanisms for self-disclosures and early support interventions
- Use of protective measures including civil orders and electronic monitoring
- Effective and efficient Criminal Justice System to bring perpetrators to justice
- Perpetrator management and intervention pathways including accredited perpetrator programmes

7. Public Health Approach

In 2024 The National Police Chief's Council declared domestic abuse a national epidemic³³ that cannot be addressed by any single organisation or approach. The government responded by committing to halve VAWG within a decade.³⁴ This ambitious commitment will require a long-term and system-wide response which aligns policy and embeds the voices of victim-survivors, engagement with communities and, collaborative planning with a wide range of partners, broader sectors and the public. How we work with people, partners and stakeholders across other settings will be critical to our success in tackling perpetrators, systemic enablers and the cultures that provide the conditions in which domestic abuse occurs and endures.

We will, where appropriate and able, ensure victim-survivor voices, and those with lived experience, support co-design of activities and inform our decisions when developing and reviewing our delivery plan. We recognise that some

³² Theory of Change is essentially a comprehensive description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It is focused in particular on mapping out or "filling in" what has been described as the "missing middle" between what a program or change initiative does (its activities or interventions) and how these lead to desired goals being achieved (outcomes) that must be in place (and how these related to one another causally) for the goals to occur. These are all mapped out in an Outcomes Framework.

³³ [Call to action as VAWG epidemic deepens](#)

³⁴ [New measures set out to combat violence against women and girls - GOV.UK](#)

groups/individuals experience multiple layers of intersectional inequality, and we will ensure activities are inclusive and anti-discriminatory.

We will hold perpetrators wholly responsible for abusive and controlling behaviour whilst approaching perpetrator interventions through a strengths-based, person-centred and trauma-informed lens,³⁵ ensuring support for change, where appropriate, is responsive to the risk, needs and responsivity of individual perpetrators. Where necessary, we will work with partners to identify options and available powers to pursue, disrupt and hold perpetrators to account. We will ensure perpetrator interventions adhere to Home Office Standards for Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions³⁶ and the Respect Outcomes Framework³⁷ whilst ensuring the safety of victim-survivors. We will ensure a joined-up, consistent approach which recognises and values the expertise of victim-survivors and specialist providers alongside others from our communities alongside consideration of research and strategic policy context. We acknowledge differences in the responsibilities and limitations of organisations and sectors.

Recognising that partnership discussions on domestic abuse are being held in a range of existing strategic and operational forums, we will ensure decisions and activities are cross-referenced with existing action plans, communicated within relevant strategic partnerships and avoid duplication or adverse impacts on existing activities.³⁸ We will seek to collaborate, co-produce and co-commission with partners where appropriate.

8. Implementation and Governance

We will deliver our longer-term outcomes for change incrementally through a one-year delivery plan that will be co-produced with victim-survivors and system-wide partners. Measurable performance outcomes will be agreed by key partners to provide accountability through a mechanism of annual reporting to Cleveland Criminal Justice Partnership and wider partnerships to review and set priorities for the year ahead.

A multi-agency working group³⁹ will be established and chaired by the OPCC. This group will co-produce a delivery plan with engagement from the public and voices of lived experience. This group will ensure the perspectives of the wider system, and partnership boards that intersect with deliverables within the plan, to ensure they are aligned and avoid duplication. The plan will consider best-practice and evidence-

³⁵ Through a trauma-informed lens means to view a situation or interact with someone by actively considering the potential impact of past traumatic experiences, understanding how trauma can affect behaviour and responses,

³⁶ [Standards for domestic abuse perpetrator interventions \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-domestic-abuse-perpetrator-interventions)

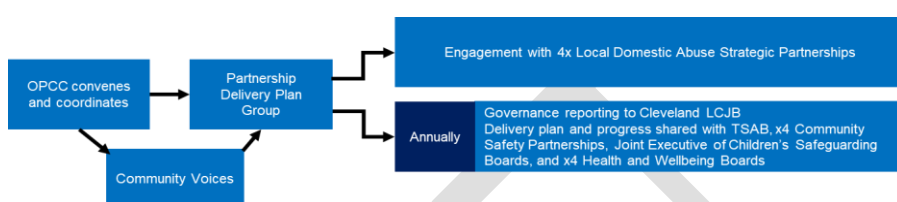
³⁷ Respect accreditation is a quality assurance certification for those working with perpetrators are assessed against the Respect Standard. Accreditation has been developed so that everyone, including perpetrators, survivors, funders, commissioners, and practitioners can be assured that a service is of a high-quality standard, regularly monitored and supported to frequently reflect and improve on best working practices.

³⁸ [link to partnerships landscape map in supporting docs to be added when finalised.](#)

³⁹ Established through representatives of key agencies from existing partnership forums including Local Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnerships, and the Local Criminal Justice Board.

based responses whilst pursuing innovation and opportunities for learning through flexible and responsive deliverables.

Discussions regarding performance and progress will be held at the local strategic domestic abuse partnerships and an annual performance report will be provided to Cleveland Criminal Justice Partnership to provide scrutiny, transparency, and accountability. This annual report will also be provided, for information and cross-reference with relevant activities, to any wider strategic partnership forums across Tees as requested.



9. Supporting Documents

- Appendices
- Theory of Change
- Delivery Plan and KPI's
- Practitioners Toolkit
- Case Studies

Commented [BT2]: Supporting Docs to be held on the OPCC website with a link available on the TSAB learning platform to support practitioner toolkit and access to key documents

Action Log

	What Actions will we take	Relates to Strategic Priority	Stakeholders Involved	Assurance Method
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

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DRAFT



SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

14th March 2025



Subject: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2024/25

Report of: Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)

Decision Type: Non-Key Decision

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

Hartlepool will be a place:

- where people will be safe and protected from harm

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide an overview of Safer Hartlepool Partnership performance linked to the priorities outlined in the Community Safety Plan 2024/27.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Community Safety Plan for 2024/27 has a strategic objective to “make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit”. Members agreed that the priority areas of focus to achieve this objective should be Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol, Domestic Violence and Serious Violence.
- 3.2 Partners contribute to a Safer Hartlepool Partnership Action Plan by providing an outline of the work they are carrying out covering each priority with the Community Safety Plan. The action plan is a living document and allow partners to include new initiatives to fully reflect the work being carried out.
- 3.3 The reporting arrangements are that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Action Plan is reported to the Partnership for consideration & comments.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Action Plan is attached in **Appendix 1** of the report it outlines activities carried out by partners across the priorities of the 2024/2027 plan.
- 4.2 Some partners produce action plans to accompany strategies such as Domestic Abuse and Drugs & Alcohol Details, links to these are included in the action plan to ensure that it fully reflects the work being carried out by all partners.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS

RISK IMPLICATIONS	No relevant issues
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	No relevant issues
LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	No relevant issues
CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY	No relevant issues
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS	No relevant issues
STAFF CONSIDERATIONS	No relevant issues
ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS	No relevant issues
ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS	No relevant issues
CONSULTATION	No relevant issues

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to consider and comment on the SHP Action Plan 2024/2025

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Partnership is responsible for monitoring performance against the Community Safety Plan 2024-2027.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-
- Safer Hartlepool Partnership – Community Safety Plan 2024/27

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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Safer Hartlepool Action Plan 2024 - 2025

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
Anti-Social Behaviour	Ensure victims understand how to report ASB.	SHP members and partner organisations	<p>28/02/2025 - Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Cleveland Online Policing App (COPA) provides residents of Cleveland a digital platform to Cleveland Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The app allows them to feed in information about policing and community safety issues easily and quickly. It also lets them ask questions and give feedback.</p> <p>A new 'Neighbourhoods Alert' App is due to go live imminently, which will provide a digital platform for communicating between police and residents – more details to follow upon launch.</p> <p>Traditional methods of the 999, 101 and police front desk remain available.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Publicity has occurred during 2024-25 regarding the work of Hartlepool Community Safety Team including work in the town centre and enforcement activity that has been undertaken.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Ensure victims are aware of the ASB case review process – “Community Trigger” and how to initiate it	SHP members and partner organisations	<p>28/06/24 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>Publicity to occurring regarding the work of Hartlepool Community Safety Team. Information regarding the team is available on HBC website.</p> <p>Information regarding the Community Trigger is available on HBC website.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>The Community Safety Team webpages on the Council website have been updated in anticipation of a new Council website in 2025.</p> <p>Information regarding the Community Trigger remains available on HBC website. (Nicholas Stone)</p>
	Provide a more visible police and council officer ‘on street’ presence	Police and Local Authority	<p>ASB hot spot funding uniformed patrols carried out in Headland & Harbour and Victoria wards.</p> <p>28/02/2025 - Cleveland Police update</p> <p>A new shift pattern was introduced in January 2025 for Hartlepool Neighbourhood Policing Teams, this has reduced</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>the original three teams to two, meaning more police officers and Community Support Officers are on duty at any one time. All officers have dedicated wards to increase public confidence, engagement and officer accountability.</p> <p>Operation Artemis: In July 2025, Cleveland Police will be leading a large-scale day of action, involving several partner agencies, charities, local organisations – this will be aimed at two key areas, Anti-Social behaviour and Open Water Misadventure.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Safer Streets 5 project funding provided Community Cohesion Officer and Environmental Project Officer roles in Victoria Ward from April 2024 to March 2025. Town Centre patrols in place by Kingdom.</p> <p>04/03/2025 – Sylvia Pinkney (AD Regulatory Services)</p> <p>ASB hot spot funding has provided additional uniformed patrols in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria ward between October 2023 and September 2024.

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foggy Furze ward between September 2024 and March 2025 Headland & Harbour ward between October 2023 and March 2025 <p>UKSPF funding has provided additional uniformed patrols in the town centre and marina areas of the town between April 2024 to March 2025.</p>
	Make full use of the ASB tools and powers related to the partnership activity to tackle ASB	Local Authority, Police and partner organisations; Thirteen Group	Community Safety Accreditation scheme in ASB hot spot areas giving Civil Enforcement Officers additional powers
	Reduce deliberate fires	Local Authority, Police, Fire Brigade and partner organisations	<p>03/03/25 - Sean Smith (Hartlepool District Manager)</p> <p>Fire Brigade District manager, Sean Smith has now agreed to chair this group. (Sean Smith). Would recommend that all individuals who are known to be involved in deliberate fire setting are referred to Fire Brigade 'Fire Education Intervention' team for 1 to 1 education.</p> <p>Would recommend this group is attended by Fire Brigade Road and Water safety co-ordinator.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			Multi agency deliberate fires group – Chaired and hosted by FB with representation from partner agencies
	Reduce the nuisance caused by illegal / off road bikes/vehicles	Local Authority, Police, Fire Brigade and partner organisations	<p>28/02/2025 - Cleveland Police update</p> <p>A reinvigorated Operation Endurance is in train, which will be aimed at a Multi-Agency approach to enforcement, problem solving and preventative activity regarding off-road bikes and ASB.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Multi agency off road vehicle group – Chaired and hosted by HBC with representation from partner agencies</p>
	Tackle environmental crime in all its forms	Local Authority, Police, Fire Brigade and partner organisations	<p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Multi agency fly tipping group. – Chaired and hosted by HBC with representation from partner agencies</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	TOWN CENTRE RAMP / ASB - ACTION PLAN	HBC & Police Explore how far / to who the orders can be devolved.	04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager
	Explore greater use of Public Space protection Orders (PSPO)	HBC & Police Explore the introduction of a PSPO across the wider Town Centre and Marine.	<p>A review of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 legislation and associated Home Office guidance for the Act shows that it would be possible to implement a PSPO for the town centre area.</p> <p>04/03/2025 – Sylvia Pinkney (AD Regulatory Services)</p> <p>Work is starting to gather evidence to support a PSPO and identify the area which it will relate to.</p>
	Create a 'Support Hub / Safe Space'	<p>HBC Explore potential locations for the creation of the support Hub / Safe Space</p> <p>HBC Identify who could be co-located in the Hub / Safe Space (options including Wharton Trust, START / Drugs Services and Homeless Team)</p>	<p>28/02/25 – Abigail Reay (Public Health)</p> <p>A meeting was held with Start, Sylvia Pinkney, Neil Harrison and Phil Hepburn. It was agreed that a 'support hub/safe space' may not be the best option to tackle ASB at the ramp after discussions were held with wider partners. It was discussed that a place based approach using assertive outreach should be explored. This will include a team of staff working together to provide support to these individuals. A further meeting has been arranged to put plans into action.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Maximise the use of available interventions Create a 'Retail Crime Forum' to ensure that the voices of retailers are heard and promote greater reporting of crime	<p>HBC & CFB Explore types of support that could be provided, including Fire Brigade offer.</p> <p>HBC & Police</p> <p>i) General promotion of use of available interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Protection Warnings - Community protection Notices - Fixed Penalty Notices - Dispersal Orders - AS13s <p>Police Support Middleton Grange Shopping centre to better use the AS13s</p> <p>HBC PCC & MP Letter to Businesses to include York Road businesses to:</p>	<p>28/02/2025 - Cleveland Police update</p> <p>A bespoke problem-solving plan has been commissioned, aimed at reducing retail crime in key locations/business within Hartlepool. This will include focus on both Theft of goods and violence towards employees and involve many stakeholders within the Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Several meetings have occurred between Community Safety, Cleveland Police and MGSC during 2024 to discuss joint working and tackling problems in the town centre. A further meeting has been arranged on 13th March 2025.</p> <p>Cleveland Police have offered to attend any Retail Crime Forum established by MGSC.</p> <p>The Community Safety Team has issued 21 Community Protection Warnings, and 4 Community Protection Notices under Operation Grantham which has targeted aggressive persons in the town centre.</p> <p>Anti-social Behaviour Officers and ward PCSOs have on a number of occasions undertaken walkabouts around the town</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
		Explore benefits and business support of the creation of a retail Crime Forum.	<p>centre during 2024 to speak to local businesses about any problems, and to provide advice on how to report any problems. Officers have also updated businesses on the actions being taken by Community Safety and provided them with posters with names/photos of perpetrators who have been issued with CPWs/CPNs so that any breaches of these can be reported.</p> <p>Cleveland Police undertook 3 dispersal orders around the town centre in 2024.</p> <p>Should MGSC security pursue Community Safety Accreditation with Cleveland Police then this issue could be discussed.</p>
	Actively pursue additional funding opportunities	PCC, HBC Explore options for increased / continued access to: - UK Shared prosperity Funding (UKSPF) (including the ongoing provision of additional Warden Patrols). CURV funding	<p>04/03/2025 – Sylvia Pinkney (AD Regulatory Services)</p> <p>Meetings have been held Police to discuss initiatives and joint working</p> <p>Further meetings are planed</p>
	Expand the use of Community Safety	PCC Expand the delegation of Community Safety Accreditation	04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Accreditation Scheme powers.	Scheme powers to Middleton Grange Shopping Centre	Should MGSC wish to pursue Community Safety Accreditation they should contact Cleveland Polices Licensing Support Unit for advice and guidance on the Accreditation process.
	Use of Licensing Powers	Police Review Licensing powers available. Police Licensing teams to better control the sale of alcohol to intoxicated individuals.	
	CCTV in Hartlepool	HBC Improve communication and awareness of CCTV in Hartlepool and how it is monitored	04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager The Council is currently undertaking a refurbishment of town centre CCTV cameras. Once this has been completed by end March 2025 publicity will occur regarding the CCTV service.
	Other Comments		28/02/2025 - Cleveland Police update Operation Artemis – January 2025: Officers in Hartlepool carried out activity with Hartlepool Council Community Wardens to tackle antisocial behaviour, aggressive begging and alcohol related violence. They also engaged with local shop staff around the threat of violence to

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>shopworkers. Two people were found to have drugs and dealt with, three antisocial behaviour orders were issued and a shop was reported to Trading Standards.</p> <p>Further activity continued into the evening, with checks on and around licensed premises. Sixty people were stop searched by officers, with seven of those dealt with for possession of drugs. Two were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply drugs and one person arrested for an outstanding stalking offence.</p> <p>A drugs dog was taken around licensed premises, which led to a large quantity of drugs discarded which was then recovered by officers.</p>
Domestic Violence and Abuse*	Local delivery of the Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership action plan 2022-2025	<p>SHP members and partner organisations</p> <p>Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board / All</p>	<p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>Needs assessment, strategy and action plan are in place with oversight provided by the statutory Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership. Needs assessment completed 2021 and currently being refreshed. Strategy was published 2022 and will be updated 2025. Action plans completed for years 1 and 2 and year 3 is in progress.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>Domestic Abuse policy and appropriate strategies are in place, with a strategic governance framework.</p> <p>Referral mechanisms pertaining to the sharing of information with key services are well implemented.</p>
	Workforce are equipped to ask the right questions and to support victims of Domestic Abuse	Strategic MARAC Group / Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	<p>Training/ promotion of Domestic Abuse campaigns; Ask for Angela, 16 Days of Action/....</p> <p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>The council has adopted and are implementing the Safe & Together model and an implementation plan is being rolled out initially targeting children’s safeguarding teams and Multi-Agency partners. Training is available via HSSCP, TSAB and the council’s workforce development team as well as through our commissioned service provider, Harbour. In addition training is being developed via Strategic MARAC.</p> <p>02/03/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>The implementation of Safe and Together is going well, with a further two, 4 day Core training sessions delivered to children’s social care, health colleagues and Harbour. MARAC training is available via TSAB website which has been developed by Strategic MARAC. Training is available via HSSCP, TSAB and the</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>council's workforce development team as well as through our commissioned service provider, Harbour.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Incident reporting mechanisms are in place to ensure appropriate risk grading for domestic abuse and victim needs assessments – connecting with MARAC and additional support services.</p>
	Ensure that the needs of victims / survivors with multiple and complex issues are given due consideration	All / HBC Domestic Abuse Coordinator / Corporate Communication Teams	<p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>TSAB refreshed the Team Around the Individual process which is now High Risk Adult Panel. Harbour have a dedicated assertive outreach worker for victims with complex needs. A second refuge has been opened specifically for complex needs victims and survivors.</p> <p>02/03/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>A perpetrator strategy has been developed and is currently out for consultation via OPCC</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Domestic Abuse in all its forms is recognised by the workforce and in the community	HBC Domestic Abuse Coordinator / Harbour	<p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>A robust communications strategy is in place educating the public as well as professionals on domestic abuse, appropriate response and how to access help and support. The council's website has been updated to reflect our offer of support services.</p>
	Victims/survivors (adults and children) are true partners in the review and development of services	SHP members and partner organisations	<p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>The board has survivor representation, the needs assessment was completed and is being refreshed with support from victims and survivors. Harbour's service user panel contributes to any policies, procedures and plans to ensure we are led by lived experience.</p>
	Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews is disseminated, resulting in improved service delivery across the whole system	SHP members and partner organisations	<p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>DHR – the SHP is responsible for commissioning DHRs where a death is a result of domestic abuse. The SHP will manage any recommendations and action plans with support from the Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership Board</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Other Comments		<p>28/02/25 – Abigail Reay (Public Health)</p> <p>DAPO pilot to begin with START D&A service this is a one year funded pilot providing dedicated staffing resource to the pilot</p> <p>28/02/2025 - Cleveland Police update</p> <p>DAPO: Cleveland police are one of three forces to pilot the introduction of Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders. This goes live on 05/03/2025. DAPO is a joint policy shared between the Home Office and Ministry of Justice. The aim of the DAPO is to bring together the strongest elements of the existing protective order regime into a single comprehensive, flexible order to afford longer-term protection for victims of all domestic abuse. The DAPO will be the first order available in all court jurisdictions (criminal, family and civil) providing victims with a choice to identify the most appropriate route for them. This emphasises the importance of victims having greater choice of how to apply and allows third parties the option to apply on behalf of victims.</p>
Drug and Alcohol Misuse	Work in partnership with the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) to reduce drug supply	SHP members and partner organisations	<p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>Hartlepool public health are represented at the combatting drugs partnership, as well as chairing CDP subgroup 2 regarding</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>treatment and recovery. Community D+A services (Start) are also in attendance.</p> <p>28/02/25 – Abigail Reay, Public Health</p> <p>The above still stands – no updates</p>
	Local delivery of the Drug & Alcohol Strategy action plan	START and Criminal Justice Partners	<p>27/06/24 – Olivia Highley, Domestic Abuse Coordinator</p> <p>Drug and alcohol strategy plan continues to be delivered with quarterly update meetings with partners we need to present this joint at Safer Hartlepool Partnership</p> <p>28/02/25 – Abigail Reay, Public Health</p> <p>Update meetings currently on hold whilst reviewed partnership. Meetings to be reinstated in the coming weeks. The D+A strategy plan continues to be worked on.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Cleveland Police restructuring has seen the creation of a ‘Prevention Command’, with a dedicated team driving the use of Out of Court Disposals, diversionary schemes and early intervention.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Review the current criminal justice pathways into substance misuse services to ensure efficacy of treatment and support	Police Trading Standards Community Safety	<p>28/06/24 – Abigail Reay, Public Health/START</p> <p>Hartlepool's continuity of care continues to be significantly higher than the national average, suggesting continuation of robust pathways between the prisons and community drug and alcohol services. Work on going to ensure that those who are taken into custody are also given opportunities to speak to substance use professionals, including onward referrals to community services. Those that are on community orders are also referred into our dedicated CJIT Team.</p> <p>28/02/25 – Abigail Reay, Public Health</p> <p>There has been a dip in CoC stats across the region. Start have prioritised this work to increase CoC numbers and ensure timely and effective treatment to our prison leavers. Start are currently working closely with regional prisons. We can see from our local data, that our CoC stats have started to increase, showing progress with regard to the work Start have been doing.</p> <p>Aswell as being a pilot site for ISC Start are also working with Cleveland Police to look at Out of Court Disposal's this will allow an even wider reach to individuals coming through the CJ pathways to support and divert away of crime and D+A use.</p>

Safer Hartlepool Action Plan 2024 - 2025

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Work in partnership to disrupt the supply of illegal drugs	Police Trading Standards Community Safety	<p>Supply chain disruption work carried out including. Premises visits, raids & premise closures orders</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Cleveland Police, along with key partners, continue to disrupt the manufacture and supply of controlled drugs. This includes effective intelligence gathering and making best use of search warrants and planned operations to target suspicious properties, seize drugs and arrest suspects. Hartlepool Neighbourhood Teams have recovered in excess of 12 million pounds worth of drugs over the last 24 months.</p>
	Raise awareness of the harms associated with drug and alcohol misuse amongst school and college students	Neighbourhood Police Team (PC Coggin)	<p>Presentations and targeted interventions delivered in schools and colleges across Hartlepool on key themes including County Lines and anti-social behaviour and drink spiking</p> <p>28/06/24 – Abigail Reay, Public Health/START</p> <p>Start CYP Team have been approaching secondary schools to expand their treatment offer, as well as offering awareness sessions. CYP team also involved in an enrichment pilot lead by YouthFocusNE within High Tunstall and English Martyrs which will include substance use drop ins. CYP Team attend colleges frequently on their market place days and events such as Freshers.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>28/02/25 – Abigail Reay, Public Health</p> <p>The above is complete. Start CYP team are now working into all secondary and youth clubs across the town. A priority for Start CYP team for 2025 is to increase numbers into treatment for under 18s. Start continue to provide prevention and resilience work across the town.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>School liaison and engagement continuous with presentations and events raising awareness of many high-risk areas; including drugs, use of weapons, violence against women and girls.</p>
	Other Comments		<p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Refresh of Naloxone training for Hartlepool police intended during 2025.</p>
Serious Violence*	Analysis of existing and emerging hotspots of serious violence is shared and a Multi-Agency response is planned.	Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV)	<p>Partners providing data for need assessment.</p> <p>Partners providing data for deep dive.</p> <p>27/06/24 – Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>Three Bleed Cabinets have been installed in the NTE area. Installation took place on Wednesday 19th June. The fourth cabinet has been purchased and will be installed as soon as the pole mounting kit has arrived.</p> <p>03/03/25 – Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>Bleed Control Cabinets Four Bleed Cabinets have been installed in and around the Night Time Economy area.</p> <p><u>Bleed Control Kit Cabinet Locations</u></p> <p>1. <u>Bleed Cabinet 1</u></p> <p>Hartlepool Community Central Hub 124 York Road, Hartlepool, TS26 9DE On front wall of building, left of entrance, next to existing Defibrillator cabinet Three What Words /// loser.report.dock</p> <p>1. <u>Bleed Cabinet 2</u></p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council Civic Centre building, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY</p>


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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>At front of building, at top of steps on front entrance concourse, next to existing Defibrillator cabinet Three What Words /// handle.boot.twigs</p> <p>2. <u>Bleed Cabinet 3</u></p> <p>Tranquillity House (Orange Box building) Harbour View, Hartlepool, TS24 0UX Front wall of building, left of entrance, next to existing Defibrillator cabinet Three What Words /// hype.occurs.nobody</p> <p>3. <u>Bleed Cabinet 4</u></p> <p>Hartlepool Railway Station Station Approach, Hartlepool, TS24 7ED On Council owned public space CCTV camera column, opposite front entrance of Hartlepool Railway Station, and opposite existing Defibrillator cabinet Three What Words /// beats.vines.filer</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>We have a dedicated Licencing Officer for Hartlepool within the Police who is working with the HBC officer(s). Plans are in place to fund further high visibility operations throughout the</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			year tackling NTE violence and taxi licencing. We will continue to work in partnership to tackle problem premises and offenders.
	Local delivery of the CURV Response Strategy  CURV Response Strategy-Final.pdf	Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV)	<p>27/06/24 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>Premises have been chosen from the NTE area. Launch event taking place on 8th July when the radios will be distributed. Launch event will be attended by Cleveland Police, CURV, HBC Licensing, Licensing Committee representative and SHP Representative.</p> <p>03/03/25 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>With support from the UKSPF funding the 25 pub watch radios are going to be funded for a further year (free to the NTE premises until July 2026). The UKSPF funding has also provided us with the opportunity to hire a further ten radios bringing the NTE Pub watch network up to 35 premises.</p> <p>So far 38 NTE premises have taken advantage of one years free membership to Schemelink, to assist with their Pub watch. SCHEMELINK is more than just a tool - it's the backbone of hundreds of watch schemes across the UK, from Pub watch to</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>Shopwatch and beyond. With features designed to keep members connected, informed, and secure, SCHEMELINK brings cutting-edge technology to the front lines of community safety and crime prevention.</p> <p>Via UKSPF funding free membership has been offered for the LASAI scheme to NTE premises within the eligible area. So far one premises has completed the process and been awarded five stars.</p> <p>Licensing Security & Vulnerability initiative has been launched to keep licensed premises safer for staff and customers. Licensing SAVI brings together all the information a premises need to meet the requirements of police and council licensing teams to promote the four Licensing Objectives.</p> <p>04/03/24 – Brian Hughff, Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team</p> <p>Cleveland IOM is a partnership approach to tackling the most prolific offenders committing ‘Neighbourhood Crime’ offences (Robbery, Burglary and other serious acquisitive crime). The key stakeholders are The Probation Service and Cleveland Police, who work with partners to collectively address the criminogenic needs of the cohorts. With substance misuse being a key driver behind the offending of this cohort the team</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>work closely with START, who attend monthly meetings to discuss IOM cases who are causing the most concern, re-offending or harm. IOM prioritise selection of violent offenders who have committed Robbery and Aggravated Burglary offences as part of their index offence.</p> <p>There are currently 17 offenders actively managed by the IOM Team. Over the last year the desistence rate for Hartlepool offenders has been positive (above 81.5% for the 'fixed' cohort) and there have been real sustainable outcomes for people at the end IOM management.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to expand IOM to include a cohort of other offenders who wouldn't usually be 'in scope', but who would benefit from the IOM approach which will see the number offenders being managed increase.</p>
	Assist in the delivery of the CURV night time economy action plan.	SHP members and partner organisations	<p>27/06/24 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>Responsible Authorities group has been established. The group has been well received and has met regularly since its incorporation. The group is chaired by HBC Licensing Manager.</p> <p>03/03/25 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>Responsible Authorities group continues to meet to discuss new Premises Licence Applications. Multi Agency group made up of all responsible authorities as defined by the Licensing Act 2003.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager A fourth Bleed Control Cabinet has been installed in the town centre. Locations are: (1) Central Community Hub, York Road; (2) Civic Centre, Victoria Road; (3) Hartlepool Railway Station; (4) Orangebox, Navigation Point.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Anna Waddington, Police</p> <p>All four bleed cabinets have now been installed and CURV are working to add these to NEAS's CAD system so they can be accessed through a 999 call. Licensed premises and other NTE stakeholders have been trained in the use of the cabinet equipment. Has been agreed bleed cabinets will be installed at a number of police and fire stations.</p> <p>25 APEX radios have been distributed to licensed premises to support communication between venues, CCTV and police. Ask for Angela training for licensed premises is planned for this month.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>Hartlepool Town Pastors given funding for additional resources.</p> <p>Drug dog operation carried out in licensed premises. This was 'piloted' with CURV funding to be taken forward by the force in future.</p>
	Raise awareness of the risks and potential consequences of serious violence amongst school and college students	Neighbourhood Police Team - Supt. Martin Hopps / PC Geoff Coggin	Presentations and targeted interventions delivered in schools and colleges across Hartlepool on key themes including knife crime, personal safety and "Ask for Angela" initiative.
	Provide a more visible police presence to prevent and deter serious violence in identified hotspot areas and the night-time economy	Police - Supt. Martin Hopps / Ch. Inspector Pete Littlewood	<p>Dedicated patrols in hotspot (GRIP) areas / positive action / reduction in offences and victims</p> <p>27/06/24 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>Hartlepool Town Pastors meeting are hosted by HBC. The meetings are attended by Licensing, Cleveland Police and CCTV.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>03/03/25 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>Close working alongside the Hartlepool Town Pastors continues.</p> <p>28/06/24 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>Installation of 2 mobile CCTV cameras in the NTE area.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>During the year there have been multiple operations running which have tackled the reduction in Serious Violence within the LPA. Op Deterrence patrols have targeted areas highlighted from data for High Visibility Policing at key times which have been identified.</p> <p>Operation Tranquillity is an ongoing force order for Night Time Economy Policing with a commitment to increasing staffing numbers on key identified dates that violence can increase.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			Pub Watch (Apex) radios have been distributed to Licenced Premises through the Hartlepool Licensee Association members. These radios are monitored by Hartlepool's CCTV Control Room.
	Other Comments		<p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Officers in Hartlepool carried out activity with Hartlepool Council Community Wardens to tackle antisocial behaviour, aggressive begging and alcohol related violence. They also engaged with local shop staff around the threat of violence to shopworkers. Two people were found to have drugs and dealt with, three antisocial behaviour orders were issued and a shop was reported to Trading Standards.</p> <p>Further activity continued into the evening, with checks on and around licensed premises. Sixty people were stop searched by officers, with seven of those dealt with for possession of drugs. Two were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply drugs and one person arrested for an outstanding stalking offence.</p> <p>Within Op Artemis Pc Coggin attended the College of Further education and delivered sessions on One Punch, Spiking and Violence Against Women and Girls.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
Re-offending	The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) 'Proven adult offending rate' for Hartlepool offenders is reduced.	Probation / Integrated Offender Management	
	Implement the Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan	YJS Management Board Chair (Jo Heaney) / HBC YJS Manager (Roni Checksfield)	<p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Cleveland Police continue to utilise Juvenile out of court disposal methods with projects such as the Triage scheme. These are referred to and then managed by the Youth Offending Team who work with partners to educate and divert children from re offending.</p> <p>This has been particularly well received in respect of youths involved in the Murray Street disorder.</p> <p>As described above there is a force wide focus led by the Prevention command to increase the use of Out of Court Disposals and Education to prevent re-offending and build safer communities.</p> <p>03/03/25 – Phil Gleaves (Youth Offending Operational Lead)</p> <p>The strategic plan has been to full council and been approved.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
Prevent	Susceptible individuals are safeguarded from being radicalised by individuals and/or groups promoting extremist ideologies online or in the community	Community Safety / Police	<p>Training: Key partners briefed on the Counter Terrorism Local Profile</p> <p>Local Prevent Risk Assessment is in place</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Ongoing assessment to ensure compliance with Prevent duty – including developing venue booking policy, Mandatory staff training and providing Prevent awareness for commissioned services. Developing an ongoing local operational group to ensure delivery of the wider Cleveland Action Plan</p>
	Workforce and Community awareness of Prevent and the risks of radicalisation is increased	Community Safety / Police / Corporate Communication Team	<p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>Cleveland Police have Prevent officers as part of the Counter Terrorism Unit which is managed in the Northern Area by West Yorkshire Police. Referrals are submitted via the intelligence submission process.</p> <p>Within the LPA Tasking and Co-ordinating Group meeting the current trends concerns are discussed as an overview with then further discussion in relation to specific identified individuals.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
	Victims of hate crime have increased confidence in reporting and accessing support services	Community Safety / VCAS / Third Party Reporting Centres	<p>Develop a Prevent Communications Plan</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Hartlepool Community Safety Team operate a network of 10 Third Party Hate Crime Reporting Centres around Hartlepool. These centres are located in public and voluntary sector buildings. Centres are advertised through signage on buildings and with contact information published on the Council and OPCC websites. The Council will also be participating in the Hate Crime Awareness Week 11-18th October 2025.</p>
Acquisitive Crime	Reduction in residential burglary offences	Police / Crime Prevention/Community Safety	<p>Proactive patrols in key areas/ prioritise activity to locate and arrest outstanding suspects / crime prevention and target hardening measures to prevent repeat victimisation.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>This is an area monitored by the Tasking and Co-Ordinating Group with discussion around Crime trends and locations. This will then direct increased ward patrols by Neighbourhood Policing and Response Teams with Local CID tackling offenders.</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>The Local Policing Framework has a force mission of Tackling Criminals and to this end we now have a Pro-active team in the Hartlepool Local Policing Area to support the arrest of people who are wanted.</p> <p>Within the LPA present figures show a 9.7% reduction in Residential Burglaries in the last 12 months.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>The Safer Streets Project has handed out 287 anti-burglary packs to at risk residents in the Victoria Ward.</p> <p>Hartlepool Community Safety Team also operate a target hardening service for victims of crime.</p>
	Reduction in shoplifting offences	Police / PCSOs / Community Safety	<p>Proactive patrols in key areas / prioritise activity to locate and arrest outstanding suspects / pursue robust enforcement for repeat offenders.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>A bespoke problem-solving plan has been commissioned, aimed at reducing retail crime in key locations/business within Hartlepool. This will include focus on both Theft of goods and</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>violence towards employees and involve many stakeholders within the Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>03/03/2025 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>Through UKSPF funding over 55 Apex radios have been provided to Hartlepool Town Centre shops. The premiss have received a radio with a two years free subscription in place.</p> <p>The radios will be used to help ensure effective communication between shops and the sharing of information/intelligence. The radio will also be connected to several services that operate in the daytime economy that can provide help and support, including the Councils CCTV team and Cleveland Police.</p>
Protect	Workforce and Community awareness of Protect duty and the risks of terrorist threats.	SHP members and partner organisations	<p>Requirement for staff to undertake ACT Awareness eLearning and SCan for All training package</p> <p>Recommended that all staff with a work Mobile phone to download the free ProtectUK App</p> <p>27/06/24 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			<p>Protect training is now incorporated into the mandatory training section of the 2024/25 Workforce Development Programme for all HBC members of staff.</p> <p>03/03/2025 - Rachel Readman (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager)</p> <p>Updates regarding Protect are provided at all meetings with stakeholders; for example Hartlepool Licensee Association and HUFC Safety Advisory Group.</p> <p>A HBC Safety Advisory Group Protect letter is now integrated within our SAG process and is provided to all internal and external event organisers to ensure that Protect measures are incorporated into the event planning.</p> <p>28/02/2025 – Cleveland Police update</p> <p>ACT package is part of our e-learning Mandatory packages and compliance has been monitored.</p> <p>04/03/25 – Nicholas Stone, Community Safety Team Leader and Philip Hepburn, Community Safety Manager</p>

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Priority	Objective / Outcome	Who	Actions/Progress/Comments
			Prevent training is now incorporated into the mandatory training section of the 2024/25 Workforce Development Programme for all HBC members of staff.



Response Strategy

**Preventing harm,
saving lives and
protecting futures.**

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Foreword



Steve Turner, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

In May 2021, I was elected as Cleveland's Police and Crime Commissioner and immediately established my 10-point plan to make Cleveland a safe place for those who live and work here. One of my priorities was to prevent, reduce and tackle serious violence, which I aimed to

deliver through the establishment of a Violence Reduction Unit.

After successfully lobbying Government, I secured the funding to establish Cleveland's Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), creating a multi-agency partnership that will work together in tackling serious violence.

Violence Reduction Units are a Home Office initiative that work on an evidenced based approach to identify which activities will deliver successful outcomes for those at risk of becoming involved or being affected by serious violence. They operate by recognising and understanding the underlying causes of violence in order to develop approaches that seek to reduce the prevalence of these causes, and empower people to avoid and address the causes themselves. It is vital therefore, that the voices of communities, and specifically young people are part of this process.

Every act of violence is one too many as the scars can be felt by the victims, families and whole communities long after the event has passed. We will never prevent all serious violence, but I am confident that the establishment of CURV will make a real difference, as it galvanises the collective effort of all those people and agencies who are already working to eradicate serious violence across Cleveland.

CURV is in its infancy but has already begun to make inroads in developing the partnerships across the many organisations that will deliver the improvements we all seek.

We will continue to learn, adapt, and apply best practice at pace. In collaboration with partners, CURV will seek out new approaches, and we will explore ways to scale up those that prove most effective so that we can live, learn and work in Cleveland free from the fear, effects and consequences of violence.



John Holden, Head of CURV

I feel immensely privileged to be given the opportunity to assume the role of Head of CURV and work with a range of partners and stakeholders who are all determined to prevent and reduce serious violence across Cleveland.

Violence is not inevitable but when the evidence shows how engrained it is across all aspects of society throughout Cleveland, it is clear that there will be no quick fix to the problem. It will take time to understand the key issues and develop specific interventions that work. We will have to be honest with ourselves and challenge existing ways of working if the evidence tells us they don't work, and we will have to work more closely than ever before.

CURV is a partnership where all members have agreed to follow the evidence to find solutions that really work. This mission is the responsibility of everybody, including those living in the affected communities, so we will be

reaching out more often to ensure their voices are truly heard. We can no longer pass the burden on to others. We must address this issue as one if we are to ensure that everyone can live, learn and work in Cleveland free from the fear, effects and consequences of violence.

INTRODUCTION

“Violence is a disease, a disease that corrupts all who use it regardless of the cause.”

Chris Hedges
US Journalist

In April 2018, the Government published the Serious Violence Strategy¹ in recognition of reported increases in violent crime across the country, specifically in relation to knife and gun crime, and homicides.

The Government subsequently established 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in the following year. Backed by dedicated funding, the VRUs' remit was to bring together police, local government, and professionals from health and education, as well as other key partners, such as community leaders in order to develop a multi-agency public health approach to preventing and reducing serious violence. In 2022, the number of VRUs increased to twenty, after Cleveland successfully secured funding for 3 years to establish its own VRU. This became known as Cleveland's Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) and represents a Cleveland wide partnership of core members and key stakeholders.

The CURV Team was recruited once funding was secured, and a Governance Group was established from the core members. One of the first actions was to commission a strategic needs assessment in order to identify the main drivers of serious violence in Cleveland, as well as the strategic priorities. With the structure in place, the Response Strategy was developed to provide the framework upon which these priorities would be addressed, against a vision that allows...



individuals, families and communities to live, learn and work in Cleveland free from the fear, effects and consequences of violence.



This Strategy's lifespan is from April 2023 until the end of March 2025, with a review at the midway point, in order to adjust priorities and approaches as more evidence becomes available.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf

KEY FINDINGS

On its establishment, CURV commissioned a report² – the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) - to understand the categories of serious violence across Cleveland, as already defined in the Home Office metrics:

Hospital admissions as a result of assault with a sharp object:

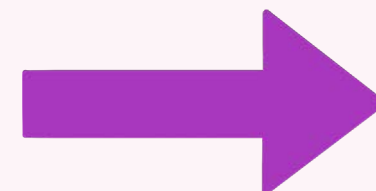
Cleveland has the 7th highest rate nationally (11.4/100,000), while Middlesbrough's rate exceeds that of Merseyside, which has the highest rate nationally.

Police recorded knife crime:

Cleveland records the 2nd highest rate nationally (154/100,000)

Homicide:

Cleveland's current ranking of 17th nationally for non-domestic homicide rates (1.2/100,000) represents a percentage rate increase over 3 times higher than the national rate of increase between 2020 and 2022.



The overall findings of the SNA can be summarised as follows:

² Based on data up to June 2022

Scale

Fewer than 300 individuals were convicted of a serious violence offence in the most recent year of data.

Despite over 7,500 offences in 2020, just 289 people were convicted.

Serious violence has a profound impact on victims and the wider community.

59% of children and young people had changed their behaviour to feel safer.

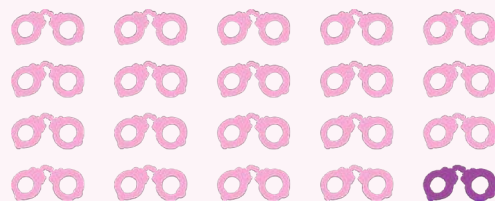
Cleveland's serious violence problem is one of the most significant in England and Wales.
1 in 20 crimes in Cleveland are serious violence offences.

Nature

Serious violence takes place in concentrated hotspots.

16% of violence takes place in just two wards in Middlesbrough.

Offences are most commonly linked to domestic abuse, drugs or alcohol and weapons.
24% of serious violence offences were flagged as domestic abuse-related.





Drivers

Cleveland has high levels of deprivation.

Middlesbrough is the local authority with the highest levels of income deprivation.

There are high levels of domestic abuse in Cleveland.

39% of young people known to youth offending services had experiences of domestic abuse.

There is a question around to what extent violence is normalised in Cleveland.

41% of children and young people have seen fights involving young people on social media.

The majority of violence in Cleveland is committed by a small number of suspects.

25% of offenders committed half of serious violence offences.

The SNA enabled CURV to identify the key offences, drivers and areas of thematic focus which are capable of forming proportionate, clear and actionable strategic priorities for the CURV. These priorities are summarised briefly below:

Assault with intent to cause serious harm:

Since 2015, Cleveland's rate of increase in this offence type has far exceeded both the national average, and local rates of less harmful forms of assault. This comparatively accelerated increase in near miss offending, combined with Cleveland's small population presents a real risk of rapid and increased rates of recorded homicide in the near future. The increased risk associated with weapon-enabled violence (22% of recorded offending) provides the same justification for prioritising this subset of offending.

Robbery and Rape:

When combined with violence with injury, rape and robbery comprise two thirds of serious violence. In the last 5 years, rape and robbery represent an estimated costs on Cleveland of £34Million, over 40% of the total estimated cost of serious violence. Prioritising offending in public spaces is consistent with existing partnership priorities and recognises the disproportionate impact on public perception of risk of violence such offending has.



Locality:

Although the SNA shows serious violence is concentrated in specific areas, further work is required to identify patterns associated with priority offence categories, specific behaviours and cohorts to help shape future, specific initiatives.

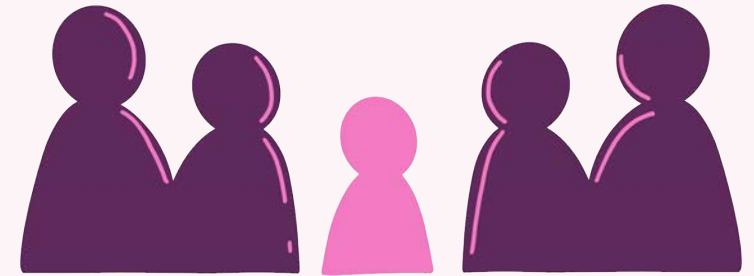


Drugs:

Drug use and supply, organised crime group activity, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and fire-setting are perceived as being enablers, potential gateway offences or intrinsically linked to serious violence. Further research into the local nature of these links is required to inform future strategic and tactical decision making.

Youth Experiences:

Survey results identified alarming trends around youth experiences of violence, and the resulting behaviours adopted to reduce the risk of further victimisation – including joining a gang, carrying a weapon, missing school. The survey also highlighted the prevalence of children informing family members (65%), friends (35%) and teachers (10%) of their victimisation, providing an opportunity to introduce protective factors in these relationships.



Deprivation and Exclusion:

Deprivation, experience of services, exclusion from school, experience of domestic abuse and prior exposure to the criminal justice system were identified as strongly correlated with serious violence offending. To inform future decision making around which predictors of violence should be given most weight for targeting interventions, further research will be required to better understand their prevalence, causal link, and value as a risk indicator.

DEFINITION



The Home Office's Serious Violence Strategy defines serious violence as:

“specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing.”



Cleveland's definition of Serious Violence is:

“Offences which cause significant harm to individuals and communities”

and includes the following categories:

- **Homicide, attempted murder, and manslaughter.**
- **Assault with intent to cause serious harm.**
- **Malicious wounding, wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.**
- **Arson with intent to endanger life.**
- **Aggravated burglary.**
- **Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving.**
- **Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking.**
- **Kidnap.**
- **Sexual violence offences**

Knife crime and/or firearms enabled/threatened offences based on the following categories (in addition to those already listed)-

- **Robbery (business and personal).**
- **Threats to kill.**
- **Assault with injury.**
- **Assault with injury on a Constable.**
- **Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury.**

Based on this definition, 15,014 serious violence crimes have been committed over a 5-year period from October 2017 to October 2022, which equates to 8 serious violence crimes every day, and where 5%, or 1 in 20, of all crimes are serious violence offences.

1 in 20
CRIMES IN CLEVELAND ARE SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse has far-reaching repercussions for all of society. It has devastating effects on families, children as well as local communities. In 2021, Parliament passed the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which defined it as behaviour consisting of; physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, or psychological, emotional or other abuse.

A number of these behaviours do not fall under the definition of serious violence and for this reason Domestic Abuse is excluded so as not to conflate two issues, but any offence that qualifies as serious violence and conducted within a domestic setting will remain within the scope of this strategy.

As a result, CURV will embed into Cleveland's existing architecture that leads on reducing domestic abuse, and supporting survivors, and will work with those agencies that deal with perpetrators.



CONTEXT

***“Nothing stops a bullet
like a job.”***

G Boyle
Founder, Homeboy Industries

Cleveland accommodates over half a million people comprised of an increasingly diverse population, including over 18,000 university students from over 100 different countries, all compressed into 597km² and governed through the four unitary authority areas of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees.

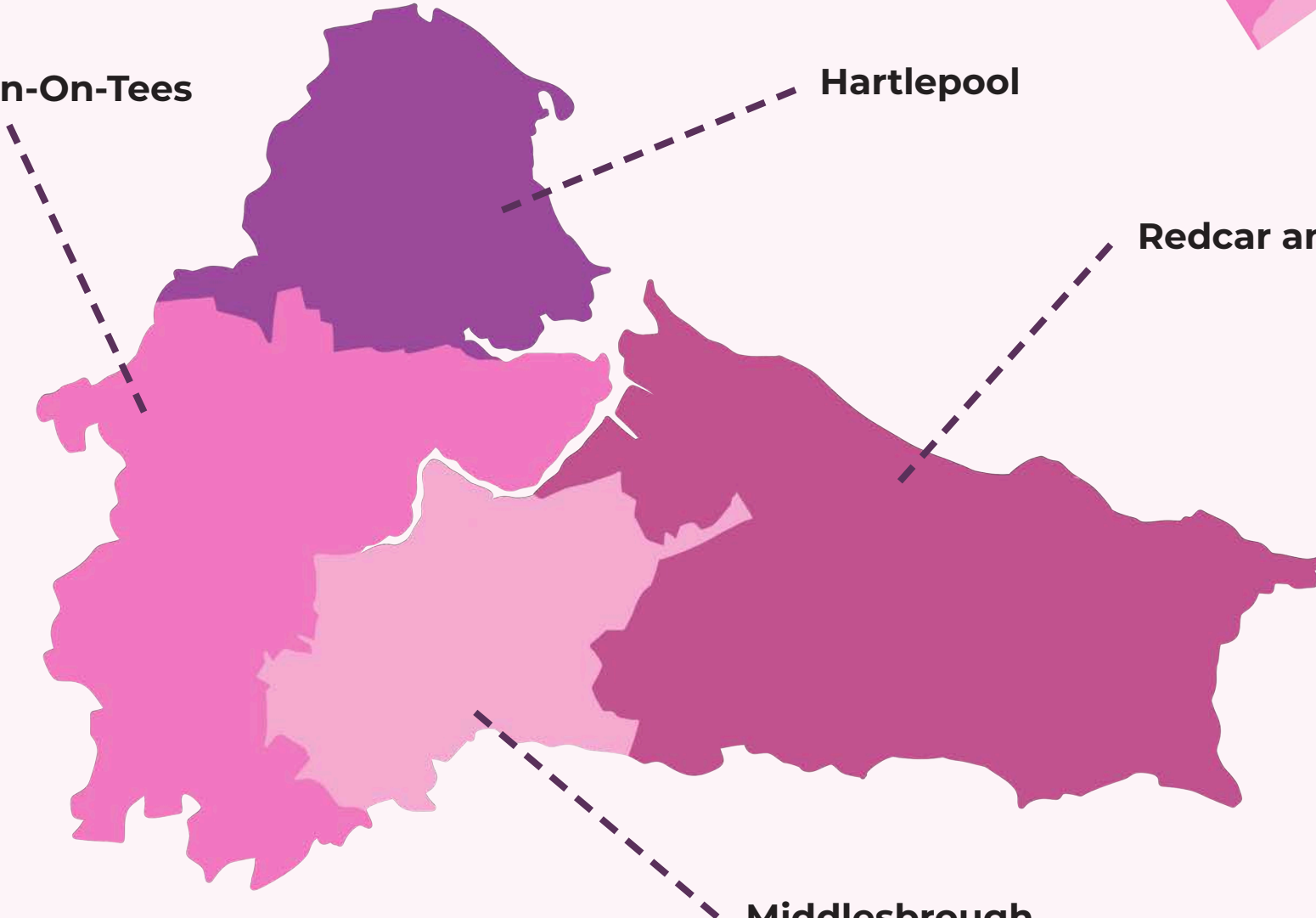


Stockton-On-Tees

Hartlepool

Redcar and Cleveland

Middlesbrough



Even though the area has a long and proud industrial history with a significant petrochemical industry, a nuclear power station and the busy seaport at Teesport, Cleveland has some of the most deprived areas in the country, with Hartlepool and Middlesbrough ranked within the top 10 most deprived local authority areas in the categories of income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment.



Middlesbrough in particular ranks first among all local authorities in England and Wales for income deprivation. It is of little surprise, therefore, to see that Cleveland records alcohol misuse as more than 50% higher than the national average, twice the national average for rates of substance misuse, and more than three times the national average for opiate misuse. Although there is no direct link between violence and deprivation, 16% of Cleveland's 15,014 serious violence offences occur in just two wards in Middlesbrough, and 40% of serious violence offences were most commonly linked to drugs and/or alcohol and weapons.

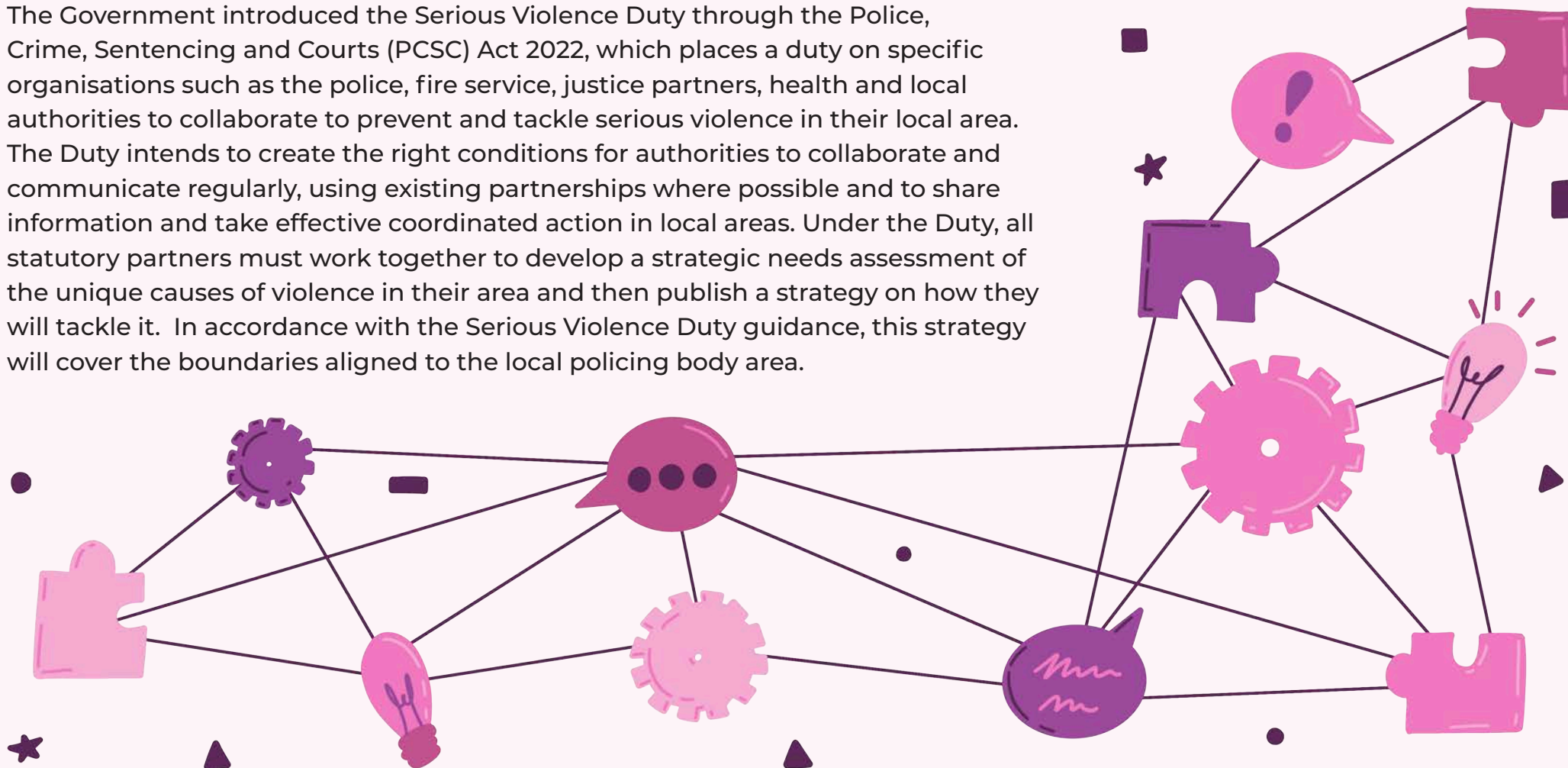
The SNA suggests meaningful protective factors do exist in areas of the community that support in reducing levels of serious violence. It is hoped that further research into the local picture, combined with trials of interventions with an evidential base can extend the protection offered and mitigate against future violence.

What does it mean for Cleveland?

It means that Cleveland is witnessing some of the highest levels of serious violence in the whole of England and Wales. Not only is this making people feel unsafe, but it is making them change the way they live their lives. To make matters worse, the proportion of violent crime is increasing, and has risen a lot since pre-COVID. Although the lack of well-paid jobs is not helping, there are many reasons why Cleveland is affected this way.

SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

The Government introduced the Serious Violence Duty through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022, which places a duty on specific organisations such as the police, fire service, justice partners, health and local authorities to collaborate to prevent and tackle serious violence in their local area. The Duty intends to create the right conditions for authorities to collaborate and communicate regularly, using existing partnerships where possible and to share information and take effective coordinated action in local areas. Under the Duty, all statutory partners must work together to develop a strategic needs assessment of the unique causes of violence in their area and then publish a strategy on how they will tackle it. In accordance with the Serious Violence Duty guidance, this strategy will cover the boundaries aligned to the local policing body area.



What does it mean for Cleveland?

It means that a number of authorities and agencies now have a legal responsibility to act to help prevent and reduce serious violence, and are required by law to work together closer than before.

PURPOSE

The Home Office outlined three key success measures for the nation's VRUs to deliver against:

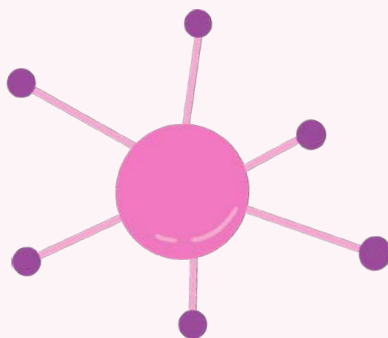
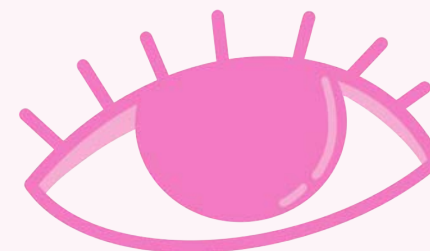
- **A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among victims aged under 25.**
- **A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among victims aged under 25.**
- **A reduction on all non-domestic homicides and especially among victims aged under 25 involving knives.**



Cleveland ranks among the top ten local areas for police recorded knife crime and hospital admissions for knife sharp object assault, and so CURV will work together with partners and the specified authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence by aligning partnership arrangements and through joint planning. Beyond these success measures, VRUs were given the freedom to set their own parameters. Based on the themes identified through the Strategic Needs Assessment, CURV developed a Cleveland specific vision, core function and objectives that will shape the Response Strategy.

Vision

CURV's vision is for individuals, families and communities to live, learn and work in Cleveland free from the fear, effects and consequences of serious violence.



Core function

CURV's core function is to provide leadership and strategic coordination of Cleveland's response to serious violence. CURV will deliver this by strengthening partnerships, working with communities, and ensuring specified authorities, partners and key stakeholders collaborate across the whole of Cleveland to deliver against agreed objectives.

What does it mean for Cleveland?

It means that the authorities and agencies will work together to make Cleveland a safer place to live, and will agree ways of working that make this happen. We will ensure we work closely with communities and young people in particular, and will never be afraid to try new ideas.

PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

“When Peel set up the police force, he did a litmus test of good policing, he said it was to protect the poor. That’s the litmus test of great policing, a

***...dn't say that filling the jails was the
as prevention of crime and disorder.
and that's about prevention."***

Karyn McClusky
'Prevention is better than the cure'
1919 Magazine, June 2021

As stated in the 2012 publication “Protecting people, Promoting health: A public health approach to violence prevention for England⁴”, violence is not something that just happens, nor is it normal or acceptable in society. Many of the key risk factors that make individuals, families or communities vulnerable to serious violence are changeable, including exposure to adverse experiences in childhood and subsequently the environments in which individuals live, learn and work throughout youth, adulthood and older age.

This strategy aims to adopt a public health approach in reducing the likelihood of serious violence. In doing so, CURV will apply a four-steps approach⁵:

Defining the problem

It is essential that we understand the causes, or drivers of serious violence. For this reason, the gathering of data and intelligence is of prime importance and so the establishment of a comprehensive strategic needs assessment, and a robust information sharing infrastructure was the first task for the new CURV team. Once established, however, the need for data and intelligence continues, and so achieving this will remain at the heart of the CURV Response Strategy.



Identifying the causes of serious violence

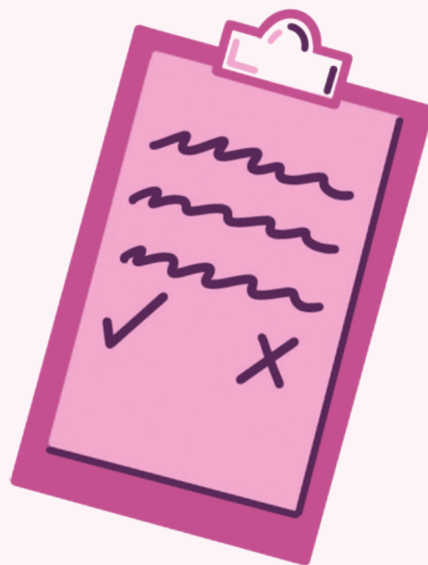
Intelligence alone is not enough. It is essential to go further in order to identify the factors that contribute to people being at risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of serious violence, as well as recognise factors that may help protect people from those outcomes. Identifying these ‘drivers’ will help in prioritising scarce resources to be earmarked against specific localities or in support of specific identifiable groupings.

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213190/Violence-prevention.pdf

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/about/publichealthapproach.html>

Test and evaluate evidence-based

Recognising the ways in which serious violence manifests across Cleveland, it is essential that the CURV Response Strategy results in both broad based as well as focussed activities that address early intervention. It is essential that all such interventions include robust evaluation methodologies in order that those identified to be successful can be scaled up.

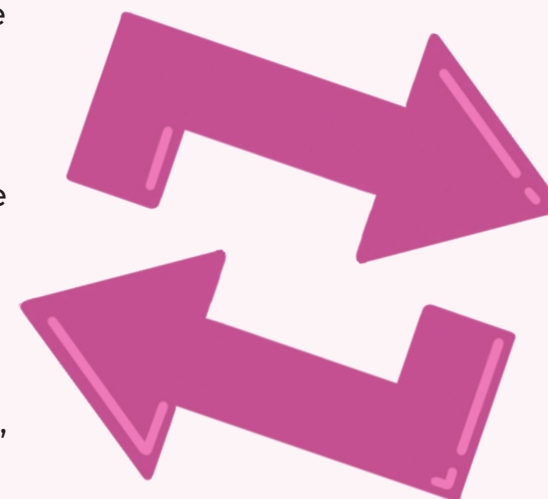


Continuous learning

There is no 'quick fix' to the reduction of serious violence. The original concept of VRUs recognised this and were established to ensure there is effective planning and collaboration to support the adoption of a long-term approach to preventing serious violence⁶. The approach enables VRUs to address the underlying causes of serious violence, diverting resources and adjusting methodologies accordingly, while continually adding to understanding, creating a continuous loop of learning, adaptation and implementation.

What does it mean for Cleveland?

It means that all agencies will work together to help protect the whole population. In doing so, we may have to focus on some specific areas, or individuals and families. Our main goal is to reduce risks to the people of Cleveland over time and we aim to do this by identifying the causes of problems and dealing with them as early as possible, rather than waiting until the problem has occurred.



⁶ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/how-is-the-government-implementing-a-public-health-approach-to-serious-violence/>

CORE PRINCIPLES

“Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another and feeling with the heart of another.”

Alfred Adler

In addition to the adoption of a public health approach, CURV will adopt four core principles, that will shape this Response Strategy:

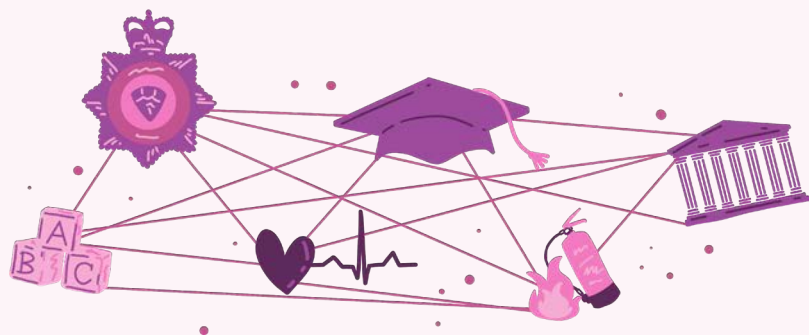
An inclusive approach

CURV will adopt a 'with and for' approach of working to ensure individuals and communities are included in and empowered by the process of preventing and reducing serious violence across Cleveland, especially in the most affected areas. We will widen involvement, particularly amongst those most affected by serious violence, and we will move beyond the barriers of cultural stereotypes and biases based on gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, geography, race or ethnicity ensuring that policies, protocols and processes are responsive to the needs of all individuals served.



A whole-systems approach

CURV will continuously seek opportunities to implement whole system ways of working, promoting joint working and problem-solving between all partner agencies, including affected communities.



A sustainable approach

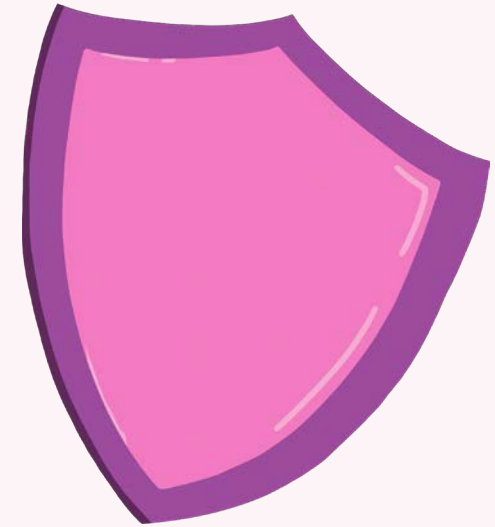
CURV will seek to invest in Cleveland's capacity by strengthening existing structures and services, harnessing the assets of existing local partnerships embedded throughout Cleveland's communities to ensure the long term sustainability of successful interventions.



A trauma-informed approach

A Trauma informed approach helps to build trust among staff, service users and the wider community through the transparency of organisations' policies and procedures where staff explain what they are doing and why, and doing what they say they will do rather than over promising. This approach also seeks to help organisations and staff see beyond the presenting behaviours of individuals and approach all engagements from a perspective of 'what happened to them?' and 'what do they need?' rather than 'what is wrong with them?'.

The adoption of a trauma-informed approach ensures the physical, psychological and emotional safety of service users and staff is prioritised, by: people knowing they are safe or asking what they need to feel safe; there being reasonable freedom from threat or harm; attempting to prevent re-traumatisation; putting policies, practices and safeguarding arrangements in place.



What does it mean for Cleveland?


It means that we will do what's right to ensure we make this work. We will genuinely listen to the ideas of the communities affected by serious violence, especially young people as well as include them in our decision making. We will make sure that whatever we build is built to last and becomes a way of working, and most importantly of all, we will make sure that all those who are involved in making this work see the world through the eyes of those affected by serious violence.



PARTNERSHIP WORKING

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

Henry Ford



CURV is a partnership where all members have agreed to follow the evidence to find solutions that really work.

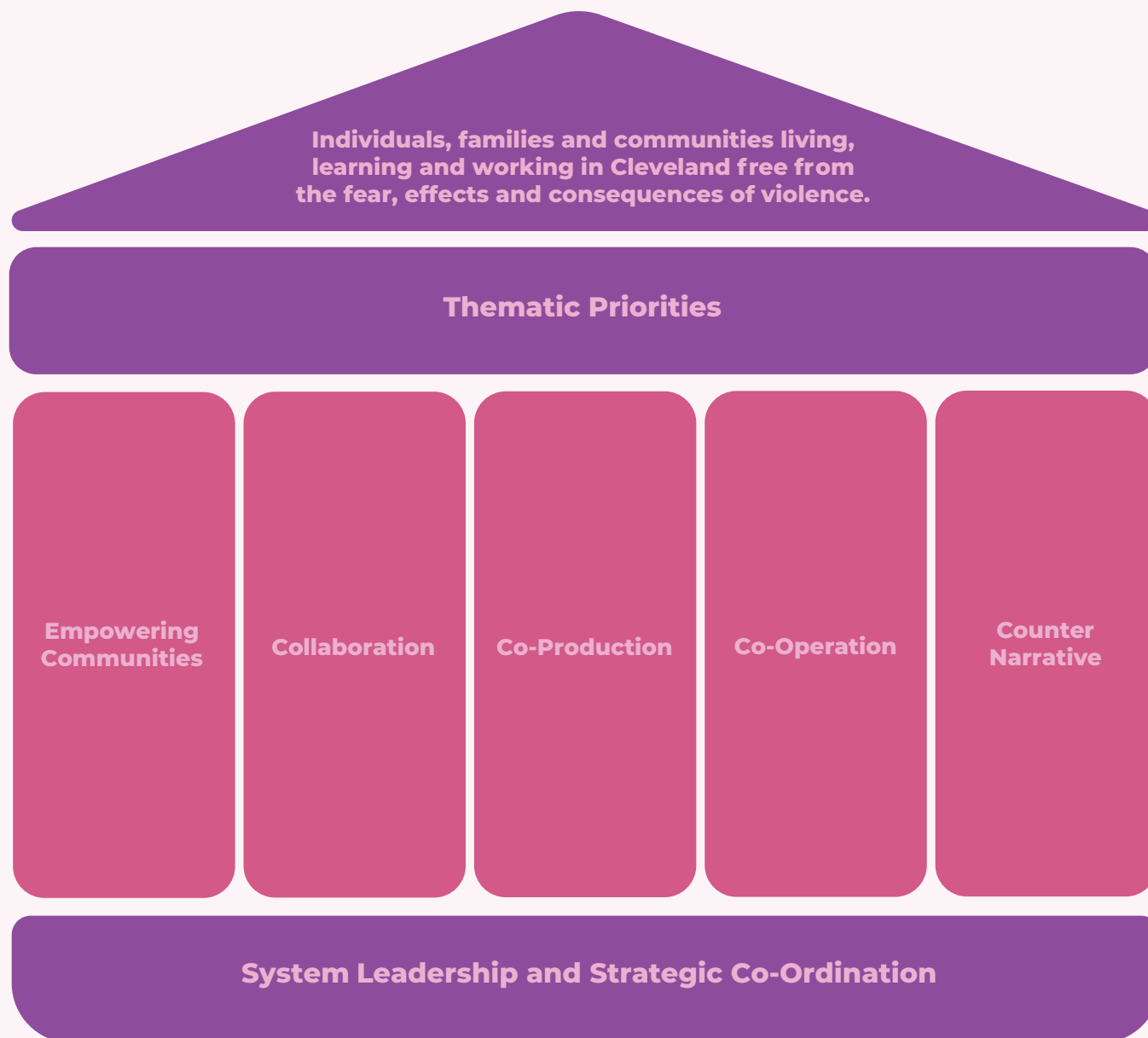
This Response Strategy forms the framework for partnership working. It is recognised that this will not occur overnight, but CURV aims to embed a common philosophy and approach through the development of a robust partnership, which seeks to encourage the alignment of the visions, shared objectives and deliverable outcomes of partners' strategies through collaborative working and co-production. A Partnership Agreement, approved by CURV's core membership, sets out CURV's organisational structure and governance arrangements, and a list of partners' associated strategies and plans of partners and specified authorities, all of which contribute to the reduction of serious violence can be found at Appendix 1.

What does it mean for Cleveland?

It means that there is already a lot of plans and policies out there that are already tackling serious violence, but they are not as joined up as they could be. We will do better.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

CURV has adopted a strategic framework for preventing and reducing serious violence, which will provide a structure for delivering the strategic priorities. This framework relies on system leadership to deliver the agreed vision by addressing prioritised activities within thematic priorities, the output of which will be shaped by the adoption of agreed ways of working.



System leadership

CURV's leadership will remain dynamic so that representatives from across the whole of Cleveland, who can contribute to creating the solutions to serious violence, can have a seat at the decision-making table. Robust system leadership will help to ensure that expectations remain aligned, while maintaining a shared determination to overcome the challenges of collaborative and partnership working.

Robust system leadership will assist in ensuring that other relevant Boards, such as Health and Well-Being Boards, Safeguarding Partnerships and Youth Offending Management Boards, include serious violence within their agendas. It will also ensure greater consistency in strategic messaging around serious violence, including engagement with elected members on evidence-based priorities, principles and methodologies, in order to identify and harmonise partners' work-strands to enable joined-up working.



What does it mean for Cleveland?

It means that CURV will deliver leadership across Cleveland by the consent of all partners.

Ways of Working

“Nothing about us, without us.”

James Charlton
Author

Empowering communities

Genuine empowerment of communities in identifying workable solutions that contribute to the prevention and reduction of serious violence is a central tenet of the Response Strategy.

We will achieve this by including Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (VCSO) membership at all levels of the CURV’s structure, establishing forums for youth and community groups to come together to discuss their concerns, and identify possible methodologies for reducing serious violence amongst their communities. We will go further by investing in approaches that genuinely amplify the voices of Cleveland, and providing genuine opportunities for young people and community representatives to have a seat at the decision-making table. We will also seek to develop and agree a model for community involvement so that communities have a stake in the activities undertaken.



Collaboration

It is essential that all partners play their part in reducing serious violence as no single agency will be able to achieve this on their own. The greatest impact in collaborative working will be in all partners jointly identifying and addressing system issues that adversely impact on delivering serious violence prevention work, and in identifying where priorities, methodologies and deliverables specifically in relating to early years, parent and family-based interventions, knife crime, sexual violence, and re-offending can be aligned and even merged.

Collaborative working must rely on an open-door policy, bringing in new members as opportunities arise. Serious violence is not deterred by geographical or organisational boundaries and so collaborative working must cut-through boundaries to ensure the causes of serious violence are addressed in a manner that is sympathetic to a whole-systems approach by exploring opportunities for closer alignment and jointly developing new initiatives between related areas of business. This has already commenced in work across the councils in relation to activities in support of reducing serious violence around the Night-time Economy, which should set the template for scaling up further work. Cleveland's Community Safety Partnerships naturally sit at the heart of collaborative working and true collaboration would come from harmonisation of their agendas, work-strands and key action-plans. With the Serious Violence Duty now in place, the opportunity to embed collaborative working must not be overlooked.

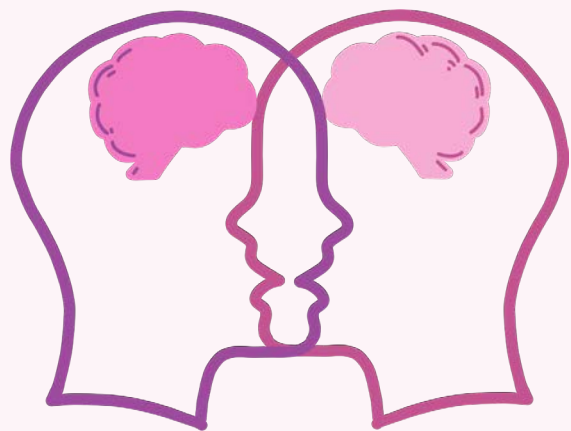
Collaboration will support the sustainability agenda by ensuring that effort is not duplicated, and in aligning the OPCC and CURV's grant system to ensure a more consistent approach, agreeing joint priorities to ensure the greatest impact.





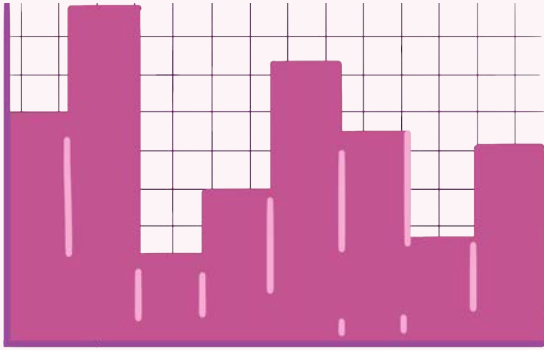
Co-production

CURV will seek to legitimise its work by ensuring all stakeholders are involved in the design and delivery of the response in preventing and reducing serious violence. Co-production is an extension of community engagement and is necessary to ensure that the communities who engage can see the results of their involvement across all aspects of violent reduction activity, including involving people with 'lived experience', and including peer mentoring into interventions where appropriate, while ensuring all CURV campaigns are developed using target-audience input. Another way of empowering our communities will be to give control of a 'community grants' fund to the established young persons and community forums so the response is owned by those with a vested interest in positive outcomes. The aspiration will be for co-production to become business as usual across all partners.



Co-operation

Cooperation between partners will be achieved through the embedding of an evidence-based approach drawn from multi-agency data that has been gathered on the basis of robust data sharing protocols, as this will help partners work from a common operating picture. This common understanding will help amplify the collective response to agreed areas of priority, which will only be achieved over time but will commence with CURV and its partners investing in the data sharing architecture, including agreements and software that will enable the establishment of a serious violence data dashboard. In addition to establishing the necessary architecture, there is a need to undertake further research into areas where analysis has identified areas of intelligence gaps in order to build on our collective understanding of the prevalence of risk factors in order to identify opportunities for earlier intervention and prevention responses that would deliver positive outcomes.



It is imperative that we cascade learning from CURV's SNA and partners' problem profiles to support a shared understanding and common language across CURV as this is an essential pre-cursor to partners having the confidence to work together to test new and innovative approaches and ensuring robust evaluation measures are built in to provide the necessary evidence to help decide whether to continue, scale up or cease activity. This will require a joint commitment of working towards an evidence-informed approach, prioritising the development of interventions which have the most robust evidence-base.

Counter narrative

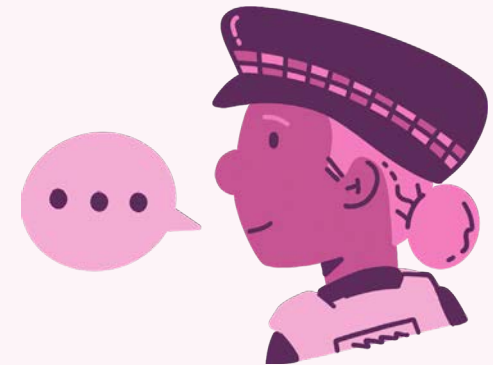


Timely and accurate messaging that supports all partners is essential in countering that narrative that challenges the violence reduction agenda. In order to achieve this, CURV and its partners will develop a serious violence reduction communications strategy and work towards ensuring consistency throughout all strategic messaging around serious violence, working proactively with local media to influence messaging. All of this will aim to equip the general population as well as specific groups with accurate information about the causes of serious violence and information on alternate pathways to help people navigate themselves away from negative outcomes. By working with young people and people with 'lived experience' we will help provide positive role models to young people and we will include them in developing our messaging to help maximise its impact.

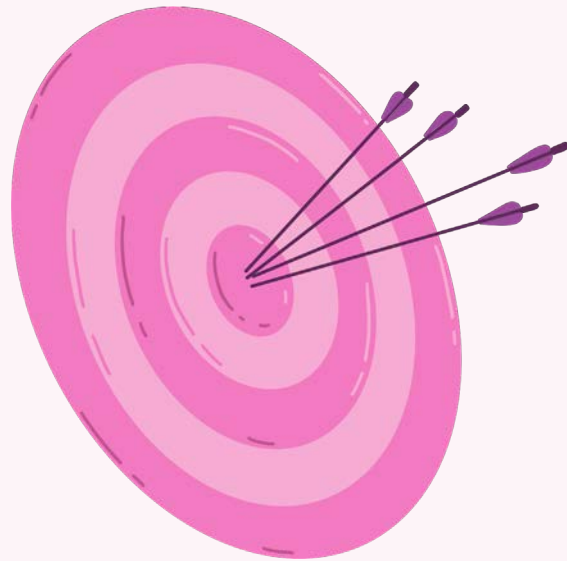
The counter narrative is more than just messaging. It is about helping to provide a better alternative to serious violence. We will, therefore, work with partners to ensure accessibility to volunteering work, leisure, arts and sport opportunities, as well as peer mentoring, and credible and resourced 'exit strategies' for those young people who have become victims of harmful lifestyles.

What does it mean for Cleveland?

It means that the voice of young people and Cleveland's many communities will be represented and have a say in what CURV and its partners do in reducing serious violence. It means an end to working in isolation and towards including all partners in designing, delivering and funding everything we do. It means we will work towards agreeing common goals so that everything we do has a purpose beyond our own agendas, and it means we will communicate all this better.



Thematic Priorities



It is essential to set the conditions for delivery, with the priority aimed at early years support and intervention, resulting in partners focussing on enhancing support to families, school inclusion policies, and understanding the needs of young people, including those who are neurodiverse.

CURV has identified several key areas of focus and activity, each of which contributes to the main mission of reducing serious violence across Cleveland. We drew on the Strategic Needs Assessment in identifying the four thematic work priorities that represent systems and groups of stakeholders with whom CURV can collaborate, with early years support and interventions a priority. The aim is for these thematic areas is to be cross-cutting through 'place based' targeting of interventions.

Research & Evaluation

- Develop and maintain the CURV 'data hub' to become the portal of choice for data and intelligence.
- Build a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to evidence outcomes against interventions.
- Support the adoption of an evidence-based approach approach to commissioning - prioritising activities based on outcomes.
- Challenge existing ways of working across all partner agencies.
- Advise on and commission new areas of research, analysis or evaluation.
- Link in with other VRUs for opportunities of collaboration on research and evaluation.
- Where appropriate, offer support with analysis, research and/or evaluation, including linking with appropriate partners outside the research group or direct involvement of members.
- Support the dissemination of research findings and learning from across Cleveland and beyond.
- Provide a space/forum to share research and best practice.
- Ensure that research/evaluation findings are embedded across commissioned projects.
- Contribute to learning.

Early Intervention

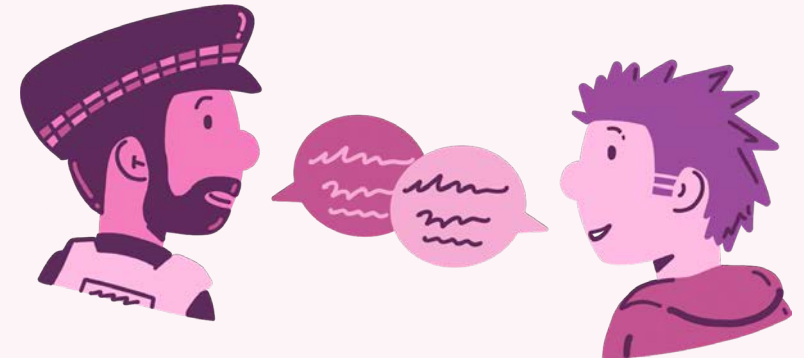
- Influence intergenerational 'system' change by prioritising early years, parent and family-based interventions.
- Collaborate with partners to identify 'at risk' children and young people who are below current intervention thresholds for 'hyperlocalised' evidenced-based intervention.
- Embed a trauma informed approach into all partner interventions.
- Contribute to an improved understanding of violence in Cleveland through better use of data and research.
- Identify examples of good practice in systems to prevent and reduce violence and criminal involvement, and identify opportunities to test or deliver at scale across Cleveland.
- Support training and education around violence reduction for professionals working in areas of Children and Adult Services, Safeguarding, Education and Health.
- Support in commissioning services that impact risk or protective factors for violence including domestic abuse, Wsubstance misuse, mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity, safeguarding and family support.
- Contribute to the broader public communication and engagement.

Secondary & Tertiary Intervention

- Support early intervention through the development of a communications strategy.
- Identify and facilitate effective criminal justice interventions for young people & adults (prioritising under 25s), and identify ways to improve current provision and interventions.
- Promote best practice to improve the use of out of court disposals across Cleveland so that opportunities to intervene as early as possible are identified and addressed effectively.
- Promote effective information and intelligence sharing amongst all partner agencies to advance a 'whole systems' approach.
- Promote and facilitate a trauma informed approach throughout all stages in the criminal justice process, from arrest through to assessment, in order that opportunities to intervene early and appropriately are not missed.
- Promote key learning and development from Criminal Justice activities.
- Monitor commissioned activity to ensure best value and impact.
- Promote collaborative working with the other VRU thematic delivery groups to maximise funding opportunities.

Community Engagement

- Support early intervention through communications strategy.
- Involve communities and young people into the violence reduction agenda, decision making, and commissioning.
- Identify and facilitate community-based interventions.
- Ensure feedback "you said - we did - change happened".



“You said - we did - change happened.”

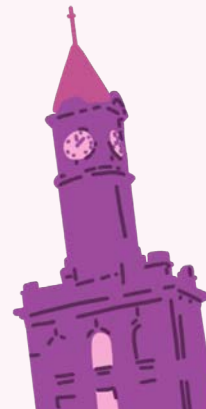
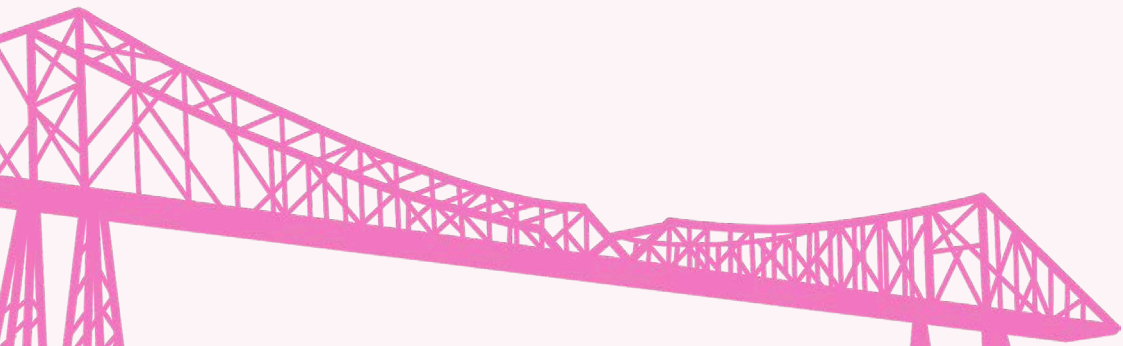
Placed Based Approach

CURV will encourage a place-based approach, which will include:

- Use of intelligence and analysis to identify specific locations for prioritised interventions.
- Build and maintain a comprehensive mapping of local systems, stakeholders, existing projects and interventions, resources, service provision gaps, and known protective factors
- Build on existing or establish authentic relationships with local communities that ensure decisions are made with them.
- Utilise local governance arrangements across all partners and key stakeholders to ensure that all activity is sustainable in its delivery.
- Encourage the whole system approach in prioritised areas.



Over one in ten violence with injury offences take place in Central ward in Middlesbrough - 47% of all violence with injury offences take place in just ten wards (there are just under 80 wards in Cleveland).



Hotspot map of violence with injury offences within the CURV definition, October 2017 - October 2022

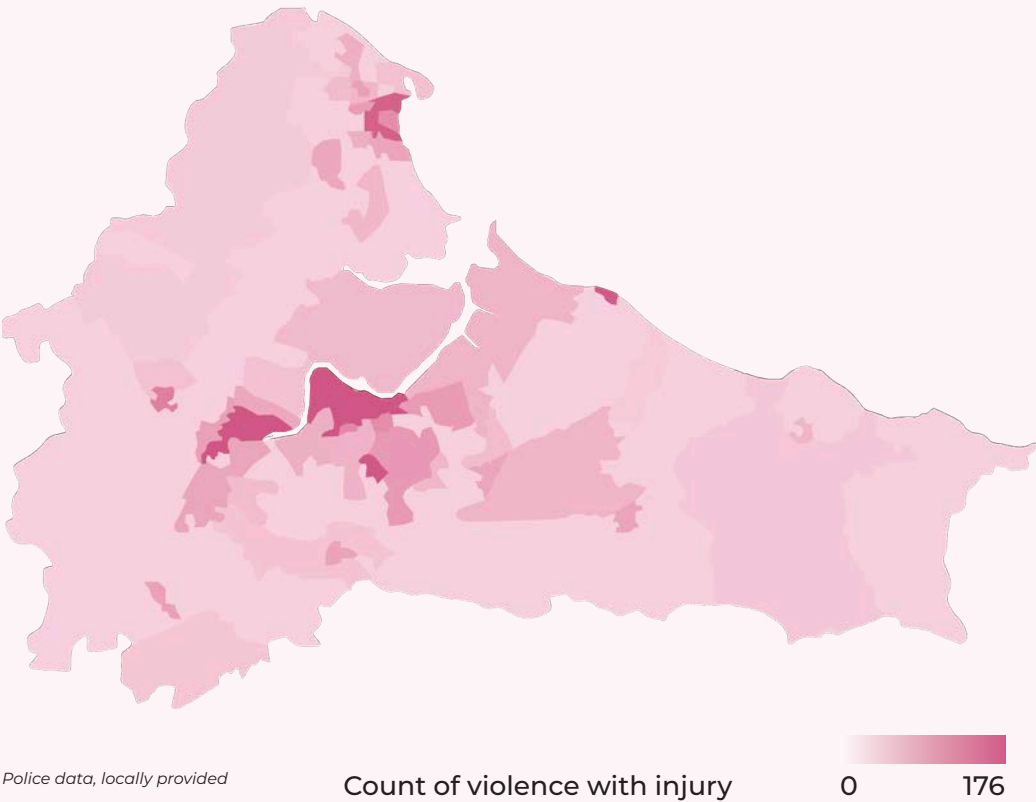


Table showing highest counts of violence with injury offences in Cleveland, October 2017-October 2022

Ward	Local Authority	Count
Central	Middlesbrough	436
Newport	Middlesbrough	251
Parkfield and Oxbridge	Stockton-on-Tees	216
Stockton Town Centre	Stockton-on-Tees	176
Longlands & Beechwood	Middlesbrough	158
Headland and Harbour	Hartlepool	147
Burn Valley	Hartlepool	120
Mandale and Victoria	Stockton-on-Tees	118
Coatham	Redcar and Cleveland	114
Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	100

2023: Priorities

The strategic priorities for 2023 reflect the needs for Cleveland as identified in the SNA. They support the national aims, our own vision and thematic priorities.



Build understanding.

- CURV will work to enhance information sharing arrangements so that partners can work together from an all-informed knowledge base.
- The published SNA was just the beginning and highlights the gaps in our understanding that is needed to make more informed decisions on future interventions. We now have a clear idea on what else we need to know in order to target our efforts and resources towards those risks and causes of serious violence.
- We will continue to engage with all communities, and we will continue to build robust and sustainable ways of doing this

Undertake evidence-based interventions.

- We will introduce 'navigators' into custody and A&E settings. This tried and tested approach will undergo extensive piloting in order to allow us to undertake robust evaluation, to help us make sure the model works for Cleveland before we look to scale up further.
- We will support other targeted interventions through direct and match funding in areas of activity that directly support the CURV serious violence reduction agenda, and we will work with organisations to access other sources of income who work in the area of violence reduction but who do not qualify for CURV funds.
- We will work with partners to help expand and enhance existing interventions that are already commissioned, which address the underlying causes of serious violence or support those protective factors that help prevent it.

Help create safer public spaces.

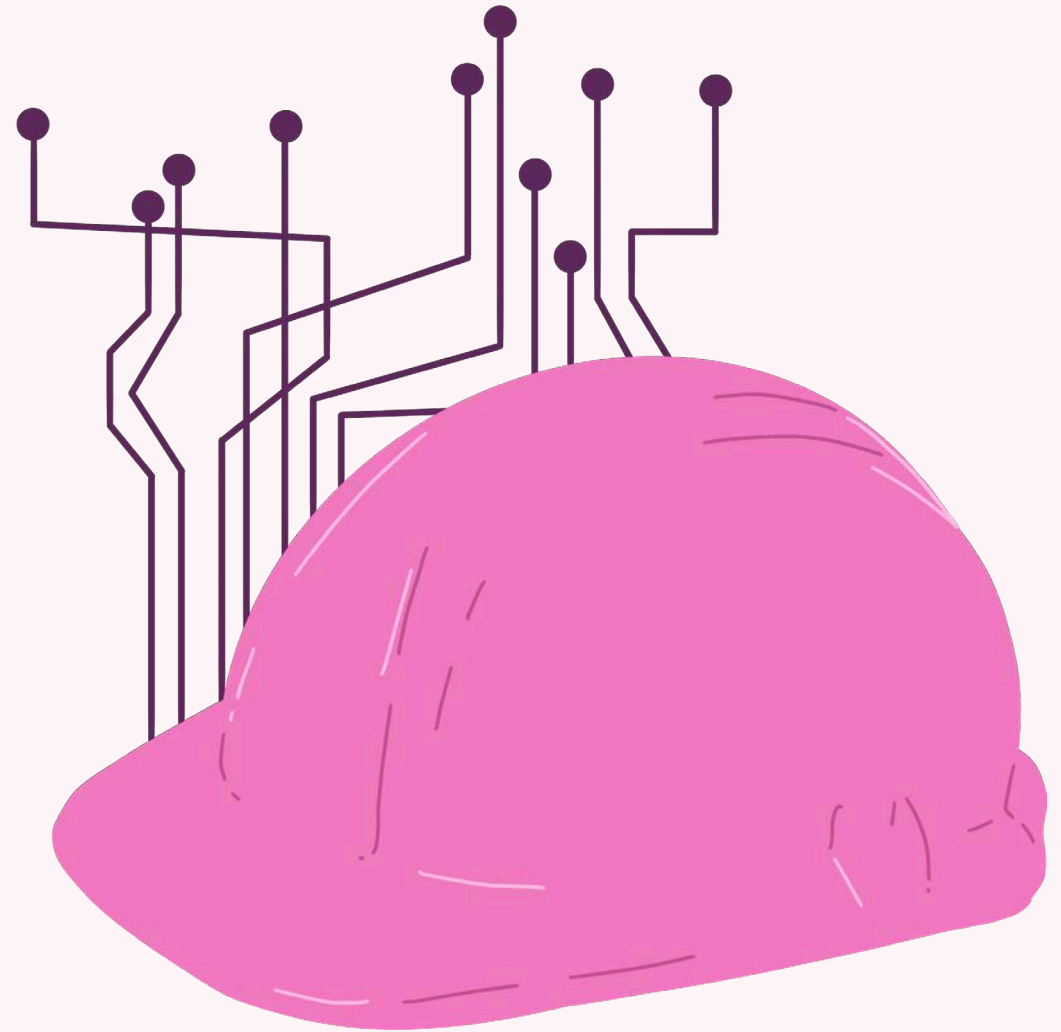
- We will focus on activities that reduce serious violence in public spaces, prioritising areas that contribute to the local economy.
- We will listen to and work with affected communities to ensure that agreed approaches are supported.
- We will work with partners to build on existing plans and capitalise on new initiatives to ensure that the impact of any joint or collaborative plan is greater than the sum of its parts



Monitoring and Evaluation Feedback

CURV is committed to improvement through learning. By remaining true to the agreed core principles, we will follow the evidence to identify ways to reduce serious violence, and we will seek to intervene as early as possible for the benefit of the whole of Cleveland. In order to evidence success and justify either further investment in specific methodologies or approaches, as well as contribute to the national evidence-gathering process, it is essential that CURV's analytical infrastructure and capacity is among the best.

There are established examples from which CURV can learn, but it will adopt what is best for Cleveland. The data we gather will allow CURV to determine what works and justify whether it is worth 'scaling up' the response to deliver greater effect. Analysis will help us make the right decisions, and so it will be essential that we seek ways to gather data in all areas of life where serious violence impacts individuals and communities.



CURV's framework for monitoring and evaluation is based on 4 pillars:

**Individuals, families and communities living,
learning and working in Cleveland free from
the fear, effects and consequences of violence.**

Dashboard

An established CURV Serious Violence Data Dashboard will provide timely and accurate data on the following:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction on all non-domestic homicides and especially among victims aged under 25 involving knives.
- Reduction in violence-related hospital admissions.
- Improvements against known/identified risk factors.

Interventions

Any intervention funded or part funded by CURV will be subject to the establishment of specific measurable outcomes that will support data gathering to determine the effectiveness and impact of the intervention in reducing serious violence. Key considerations will include:

- Key demographics as identified in the SNA.

Communities / Young People

An essential component of the analysis will be to understand how the data and evidence is seen by the communities it is intended to help. The routine and gathering and analysis of feedback from affected communities and young people will focus on:

Perceptions on violence and safety within affected communities
Feedback on the effectiveness of CURV funded interventions
intervention providers

External Evaluation

CURV will participate in national and local independent evaluation programmes.

CURV Response Strategy and Action Plans

ACCOUNTABILITY

The CURV's Executive Assurance Board (EAB), co-chaired by the PCC and Chief Constable has overall oversight of the serious violence agenda. The Strategic Delivery Group (SDG) is responsible for developing and delivering the strategic framework, aligning delivery through operational groups, and sharing best practice. Membership of the EAG and SDG form the core-membership of the CURV as set out by the Home Office, and include the specified and relevant authorities as outlined in the Serious Violence Duty. The SDG will report to the EAG, updating on the agreed metrics that will define success, the delivery of agreed goals, and will seek approval of the quarterly reports required by the Home Office. CURV's structure and governance arrangements will continue to evolve, and will expand to include new partners as learning and our understanding directs, and our accountability structure will evolve to adapt.

The development of our understanding through the collection of data is central to CURV's approach of delivering an evidenced based response. CURV will establish and maintain a data dashboard, coordinate the annual refresh of a partner-wide SNA, and will monitor all CURV funded or match funded interventions against their outcomes in order to assess the level of success in contributing to a reduction in serious violence. The Research and Evaluation Steering Group will use the SNA to identify and recommend areas of further research.



CASE STUDIES

The SNA examined large quantities of data to help understand the scale, nature and drivers of violent crime in Cleveland. To better understand this data, researchers engaged with people with lived experiences of serious violence, and with the professionals who support people at risk of, or involved in, violent crime.

Interviews were conducted with victims and perpetrators of violent crime, whilst focus groups were held with professionals working in education and probation services. Young people were directly engaged with through interviews and a survey, which was completed by 851 respondents.

The following stories were captured as part of this work.

Victimisation Case Studies

Alice: a victim of armed robbery



Alice was working as a loan provider in Middlesbrough. On the day of the offence, Alice visited the house of a man who wanted a loan, she described the property as a 'shithole'. When Alice arrived she saw that a second man was also at the property. Alice took the man's ID but his loan was declined as it was unaffordable. When Alice started to leave the property, the two men left the room.

Alice remembers that the first man returned with a gun, pointed at her head. He demanded that Alice give him the money, which she did - fearing that she would be raped and killed.

“I’ll never forget his eyes, I’ll never forget the feeling... is this a dream? Is this a nightmare? What’s going on? I thought they were going to kill me”

The two men fled. Alice ran out onto the street and told a passerby that she had been robbed at gunpoint. However, the passerby walked by and did nothing. She managed to call the police and a short time later the police arrived at the scene.



George: a victim of serious injury by dangerous driving

George was involved in a head-on collision while on his way to work early in the morning.

The journey is about 11 miles and is not a dangerous road. He was alone in the car. The other driver was driving with his son when he pulled out to overtake a car and wagon. Following the collision, George's initial reaction was that he didn't want to be late to work, as he had a busy week. He then realised his situation and didn't think he would survive.

George suffered an instant spinal injury meaning he now cannot feel anything from the chest down. One of his arteries was severed, he broke all his ribs, sternum, collarbone and had a punctured lung. He bruised his heart, his kidney, pneumothorax, and had burst eardrums, flail chest and broken legs. He was airlifted to James Cook Hospital and put into an induced coma. George doesn't remember anything until the point at which he woke up in hospital.

George: "I made a video recording to leave to my family because I didn't think I was going to make it."



Anecdotal evidence from stakeholders working in education settings suggests children are starting to engage in violence using weapons while they are in school.

In the last year or so I'm getting more referrals from primary schools to do knife crime interventions and some of those have been in relation to young people actually physically taking the knife into primary school."

- Early intervention police officer

It's hit a new milestone - six was my youngest, five is my youngest now - and that's against parents in the home, drawing a knife, threatening with a knife or taking it into a primary school.

- Early intervention police officer

Perpetrator Case Studies

Mark: armed robbery

Mark said that all of his offending was linked to violence, some of which was driven by alcohol use. Mark was typically violent towards people he knew in the community or strangers, rather than in a domestic context.

Following a number of convictions in prison for violence, Mark was convicted of an armed robbery offence. This was the offence which led him to be identified for an interview. Mark's friend had asked him to help him rob a shop. Initially, he was reluctant but under the influence of alcohol Mark agreed, incentivised by financial gain - his friend told Mark he had previously taken £80,000. Mark insisted he only played a supporting role in the robbery as the driver, and a more passive role in the shop itself. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.



Richard: Attempted Murder

Richard attacked his wife Kate while under the influence of cannabis. Kate told the police how Richard had tried to hit her with a hammer while she was in the bath in view of the children. Richard says that he blacked out when this happened and does not remember the events around the attack, but thinks that his mental health was the catalyst for his attack on Kate.

“I was fearful for my life, for the kids, but it all links in with my mental health and what I had been viewing.”

Richard said he felt immense pressure as a result of his mental health and drug use, and had delusions that he was being targeted by a malicious group who were threatening his family. Richard appeared in court and was convicted of attempted murder, receiving a 10 year sentence.

Appendix 1

- **South Tees Youth Justice Plan⁷**
- **Hartlepool Borough Council's Youth Justice Plan**
- **Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board – Strategic Business Plan⁸**
- **Hartlepool Borough Council's Community Safety Plan⁹**
- **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Community Safety Strategy¹⁰**
- **South Tees Health and Wellbeing Strategy**
- **Hartlepool Borough Council's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy¹¹**
- **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy¹²**
- **Cleveland Police:**
 - **Homicide Prevention Framework¹³**
 - **Serious Organised Crime Strategy**
 - **Serious Violence Strategy**
 - **Problem Solving and Prevention Strategy**
- **Fire:**
 - **Arson Reduction Strategy**
 - **Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

⁷ <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/children-families-and-safeguarding/south-tees-youth-justice-service>

⁸ <https://www.tsab.org.uk/?s=strategic+business+plan>

⁹ <https://ehq-production-europe.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/>

¹⁰ <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/ssp>

¹¹ https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/download/817/joint_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2018-25

¹² https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2499/Stockton-on-Tees-Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy-2019-2023/pdf/Joint_Health_and_Wellbeing_Strategy_2019_-_2023.pdf?m=637807144047870000

¹³ Based on the framework set by the College of Policing: <https://www.college.police.uk/article/homicide-prevention-framework-launched>

