

Safer West Sussex Partnership

Serious Violence Scrutiny Committee 14 September 2020

- * Jim Bartlett, Acting Head of Community Safety & Wellbeing
- * Emma Fawell, Violence Reduction Unit Lead



SAFER
WEST SUSSEX
PARTNERSHIP

Serious Violence – National Picture

- * Government's Serious Violence Strategy April 2018
- * Driving a public health approach to tackle root causes
- * Includes new initiatives and commitment of funding eg, the Early Intervention Youth Fund
- * The strategy has a focus on young people and youth violence

The strategy has four main themes for action:

- * tackling county lines and misuse of drugs
- * early intervention and prevention
- * supporting communities and local partnerships
- * law enforcement and the criminal justice response



Violence Reduction Partnerships

- * Sussex one of 18 PCC areas to receive Home Office funding
- * Pan Sussex Serious Violence Reduction Steering Group
- * West Sussex Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)
- * 2019-20 funding £258k
- * 2020-21 funding of £176k direct project costs for West Sussex
- * Funding allocated based on the Serious Violence profile
- * Police Surge funding
- * Additional micro-charity funding to support serious youth violence hotspots



Serious Violence – local picture

- * Safer West Sussex Partnership brings together local partners
- * Sussex following national trends in rise in Serious violence
- * Definition of serious violence
- * 2019/20 funding reached 300 plus young people
- * Community engagement workstream



VRU Projects in progress

- * Diversionary activity for young people involved in youth justice system – funds allocated to Youth Justice Service – county wide for those
- * Peer mentor project - funds allocated to St Giles Trust – county wide project – developing support for young people alongside people with lived experience
- * **Projects led by districts and borough**
- * Crawley - AudioActive interventions with young people at risk
- * Adur and Worthing and Arun – mentoring with school age children in transition to secondary school and a community engagement project

Looking forward – priorities for next 18 months

- * Working together to support children and young people to remain safe in school and to reduce exclusions in all schools including special schools and APC's.
- * Developing engagement opportunities and platforms with young people, with communities disproportionality effected by violence and exploitation, and with the wider community, so feedback is listened to, to help shape responses
- * Working together to reduce the risk of serious violence among young BAME victims and perpetrators, by understanding the causes, indicators and influences. The VRU and the Youth Justice Board will work in collaboration with key stakeholders to develop a focussed operational plan to reduce the disproportional representation of young black and minority ethnic young people exposed to serious violence and exploitation.

Policing response and Op Safety

Nick Bowman
Sussex Police
Chief Inspector



Op Safety

Objectives

Home Office expectation that funds be used for law-enforcement '*surge capacity to reduce serious violence*' with the **primary objective being to reduce serious violence in public spaces with a focus on reducing knife crimes committed against young people.**

- * Objective 1: proactively tackle knife crime across West Sussex using intelligence led patrols of hotspot areas
- * Objective 2: educate and engage with local communities on the dangers of carrying a knife
- * Objective 3: create a sense of reassurance within local communities
- * Objective 4: develop intelligence across West Sussex (police and partner)
- * Objective 5: use information and intelligence from local partners (particularly NHS) to guide proactive patrols
- * Objective 6: provide quarterly return forms of activity and spend to Op Safety Sussex Police lead
- * Objective 7: create a West Safety Op Safety Working Group to manage spend, progress and discuss learning from divisional activities

Op Safety

Surge Activity 2019/20

Operation Type	West Sussex		Total
Test Purchase	7	65	72
School Visit	2	26	28
Roadshow		13	13
Reboot referral	12	6	18
Licensed Premesis Visit		1	1
Knife Arches		1	1
Intel Led Activity		30	30
Hotspot Patrol		205	205
Communications		44	44
Bail Enforcement		7	7
Total	21	398	419

Op Safety

Surge Activity 2019/20

Knives Seized

Knife Grouped	West Sussex	Total
Blade	1	1
Hammer	1	1
Kitchen Knife	14	14
Knife, including Pen Knife and Lock Knife	31	31
Machete or Meat Cleaver	1	1
Metal Pole	2	2
Multi Tool with blade	2	2
Stanley Knives/blades, Razor Blades and Scissors	2	2
Sword, Samurai Sword and Daggers	2	2
Total	56	56



Op Safety

Surge Activity 2019/20

Proactive operations

Number of ops	Intel logs submitted	Stop searches	Weapons found/seized	Arrests	S.18
93	983	770	89	214	44

Op Signal

Number of deployments	Intel logs submitted	Stop searches	Weapons found/seized	Arrests	S.18
40	125	67	4	18	2

Op Tandem

- * Dedicated deployments to focus on Night-time economy.
- * Problem profile shows peak in serious violence and sexual offences in town centres on Friday and Saturday night.
- * Focus on pro-active licencing activity and early engagement and tone-setting.
- * Extended to open spaces with large gatherings post-Covid.
- * Police-only at the moment but developing partnership approach going forward is vital.

National Probation Service Sussex Violence Reduction 18-25 year old cohort

Mark Burden

National Probation Service
Head of LDU



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Key Issues of Concern from a NPS Perspective

- * The amount of violence committed by young people on young people
- * The continuing prevalence of county lines and the exploitation of young people sexually, financially and physically
- * The continuing use of technology and social media platforms in connection to violent crime
- * The potential of a disproportionate negative consequence of Covid-19 in terms of education and employment opportunities and income
- * Ongoing issues in relation to safe and secure accommodation
- * The proportion who have experienced a traumatic childhood and as a consequence experience mental health / emotional difficulties
- * The proportion of young people transitioning from YOS to NPS who go on to re-offend or breach
- * The proportion of 18-24 year olds on NPS caseload who go on to commit a Serious Further Offence whilst under supervision

Probation Service Case Overview

- * NPS 220 Cases 18-25 (88 West Sussex cases). To qualify as a NPS case the offender must be considered to present a high risk of serious harm to others and or a high risk of re-offending
- * Proportion of index Offence
- * Drug related (supply / possession) : 5%
- * Public Order: 5.9%
- * Robbery: 16.4%
- * Sexual Offences (victim child or adult): 17.7%
- * Violence: 43.6%
- * 18-25 year old cohort account for 60% of the NPS recorded total of SFO's

- * Community Rehabilitation Company
- * 469 cases in Sussex, 222 West Sussex
- * 22.38% Drugs related Sussex wide 22.97 % West Sussex

NPS Sussex Response

- * Creation of a dedicated pan Sussex Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU)
- * Staffing:
 - * Oversight from two Senior Probation Officers covering West Sussex / Brighton and East Sussex
 - * 3.0 FTE Probation Service Officers
 - * Our seconded YOS probation officers will provide Transitions oversight and will link NPS with YOS intelligence in relation to Exploitation and group / gang related activity
 - * Court PSO's will cross reference cases
 - * To work with police colleagues in increasing our understanding of how technology is applied within Exploitation

Focus of the VERU

- * The VERU will dovetail our newly created Community Network and Partnerships Team, where we will seek to develop combined services with other agencies to extend provision of interventions and support to young adults
- * This will include such projects as sports and fitness, performing arts, ETE and accommodation pathways, support in developing business ideas, peer to peer support
- * Create and develop further bespoke interventions by our specialist officers to specifically address the criminogenic needs of young adults and to evolve and adapt out supervision practice to increase young adult engagement with our staff.
- * To further develop our in house group work in relation to sexual offending and to challenge the negative images of women potentially encouraged by pornography widely available on the internet
- * To increase our network with seconded staff to Serious Organised Crime Unit and with established links

St Giles Trust Peer Mentoring

- * Peer Mentoring
- * Several NPS service users, convicted of serious offences but well advanced in their rehabilitation journey have been trained by St Giles Trust, through the support of VRU grant, to mentor young people at risk of or who already are in the Criminal Justice System
- * This forms part of our response to addressing violent offending in partnership with West Sussex Local Authority and the West Sussex VRU
- * We plan to conduct another round of peer mentoring training as and when Covid 19 restrictions permit

St Giles

Turning a past into a future

Peer Advisor Programme

St Giles Peer Advisor Programme

TURNING A PAST INTO A FUTURE

- St Giles is an award-winning charity helping people facing severe disadvantage to find jobs, homes and the right support they need.
- We deliver over 70 projects in communities and prisons across England and Wales, helping over 25,000 a year have a better future
- Central to our work is the belief that people with 'lived experience' hold the key to positive change in others.

"It's really important that we have lived through things, have experienced things. It means that people can drop their barriers with us. We have empathy with them. That's the start of being able to help them, to have trust" – Peer Advisor

- We have been successfully delivering a professional development programme over the last 18 years. This Peer Advisor Programme has successfully trained over 2,500 people with lived experience who have gone on to positively impact thousands of other people's lives.

Peer Advisor Programme

HARNESSING LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

The programme has many distinctive elements setting it apart from other peer initiatives. We provide a structured package of:

- **Initial training, 'Learning to Advise'**, introducing advice and guidance work and the base Peer Advisors need to provide effective services in the community.
- **Voluntary placements** (average 6 months/2 days per week) in frontline advice and guidance roles with a partner agency or St Giles team to gain confidence and skills.
- **Supervision and support** to enable progression into sustained employment and a future career
- **Assessment and portfolio building** to gain the industry-standard City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Advice & Guidance. For many Peer Advisors this is their first significant educational achievement

This unique model works across a huge range of community and prison-based settings and succeeds in engaging and enabling people to progress to achievements they'd ever imagined possible.

An evaluation of our Peer Advisor model by PwC estimated a **£8.54 saving for every £1 invested** in our Peer-led services.

Being advised by peer advisors increases a **client's chances of employment from 24% to 44%.**

Safer West Sussex Partnership

Sophie Whitehouse

Adur & Worthing Councils
Lead for Early Help and Wellbeing



Worthing & Arun- The Local Picture

- Coastal towns with increasing exposure to county lines and also “home grown” exploitation
- Increase in youth violence & exploitation
- Communities in fear
- Increased reporting of concerns from schools – younger children
- Increased intel
- Lack of localised specialist support
- Existing services over subscribed

Championing a Community Response

- Empowering the community to respond to youth violence and exploitation
- We Can Work It Out commissioned- Track record in Waltham Forest
- Develop a local resource for parents/ young people worried about violence and exploitation
- Train peer mentors
- Access to expert advice

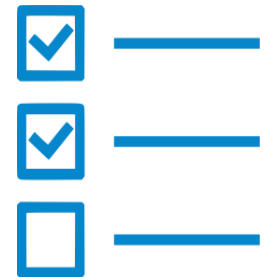


Transitions

- Transition points where violence/ exploitation emerges and/or escalates
- Schools concerns re younger children- middle schools
- Transition from mainstream to Alternative Provision College (APC)
- Mentivity- award winning organisation
- 25 children assigned to a mentor

Progress to date

- Co-production with young people > Connect2 Project
- Website in development
- Stakeholder mapping with CVS
- Introductory visits for mentees
- Virtual “ youth clubs” and online mentoring
- Introductions to High Schools
- Positive Feedback from parents



Next Steps

- Finalise community resource
- Advertise for community connectors
- Build Social Media presence
- Develop the youth advisory board for community response
- Embed Mentivity Mentors
- Develop Comms
- Gather stories and insights



Questions ?