



To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 8 April 2019

From: Chief Superintendent Mike O'Hara, West Midlands Police

Title: Young People and Violence

1 Purpose

This paper provides background information about the Young People and Violence agenda item.

2 Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Consider its role in response to issues around young people and violence in the city; and
2. Endorse and support the proposed approach to tackling this issue.

3 Background

There is increasing concern and profile around youth violence in the city and, whilst lots of activity is already in place to address this, there is recognition that there is a need for a coordinated approach. Coventry's senior leaders have acknowledged that violence in the city should be approached as a public health issue, in that it has root causes, it can be treated, but most importantly it can be prevented.

The drivers of violence are identified as poverty, deprivation, substance misuse, adverse childhood experiences, mental health issues, urban environments, organised crime, county lines and having a large population of young people. To make an impact on violence over the long term we must address all these factors by taking a systematic 'public health approach'. We need to use data and intelligence to assess the scope of the problem, identifying who is at risk and what common risk factors they share to inform evidence based approaches over the short, medium and long term.

A Violence Summit for city leaders was held at the end of January, focused around identifying root causes, key priorities and resources, and laying the foundations for follow-up work to further develop and operationalise these. Further events are planned to engage the voluntary sector and the local community.

This agenda item will build on the outcomes from that event. It is intended to seek strategic ownership of the issue of youth violence by the Board and engage members in determining the partnership and governance structure that is needed to take this work forward.

4 Recommended Proposal

The item will include a presentation about what we know about the issue of youth violence in the city and existing activity to address it, and seek support and commitment from Board members for an outline approach to tackling youth violence with partners. The Chair has agreed to give substantial time for discussion of this item at the Board meeting.

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Appendices