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**To:** Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**From:** Liz Gaulton, Director of Public Health & Well-being

**Title:** Draft Youth Violence Prevention Strategy

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## **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To brief the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work of the Coventry Youth Violence Prevention Partnership Board (CYVPPB), the development of a strategy, the work already taking place across the City and putting an action plan in place to use a Public Health approach to tackle rising levels of youth violence..

## **2 Recommendations**

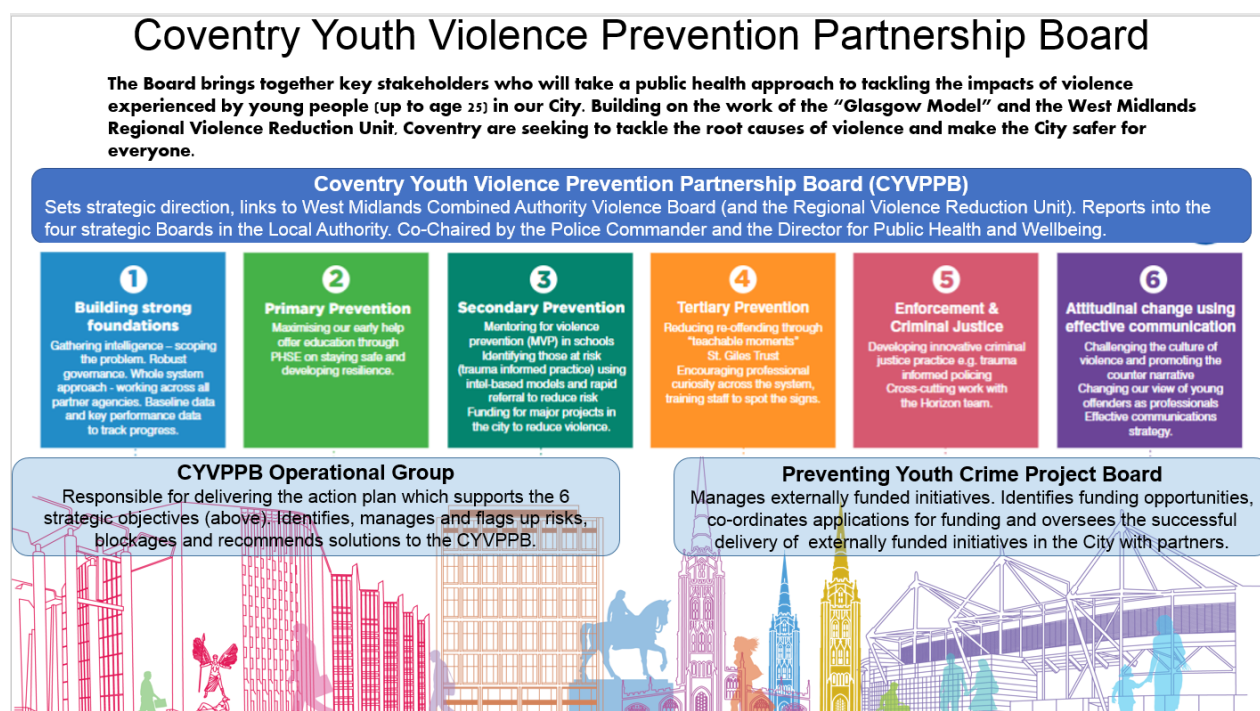
The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Consider and endorse the Draft Coventry Youth Violence Prevention Strategy 2019-29; and
2. Note the progress to date on the draft strategy and the work already taking place on youth violence across the City.

## **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The West Midlands Region has seen a steep increase in knife crime offences. Government research indicates knife crime is heavily linked to gang activity. Knife crime has risen nationally by 20% between 2016 and 2017 and this has been reported extensively in the media, including stories about 'County Lines'. Although Coventry mirrors this national trend, the number of young people becoming victims and/or perpetrators of violent crime is of particular concern.
- 3.2 Coventry's senior leaders have agreed that violence in the City should be addressed via a public health approach, acting on its root causes as well as providing an effective response. The Violence Summit held in January this year led to a commitment to tackling this issue together across the whole system.
- 3.3 This summer the Coventry Youth Violence Prevention Partnership Board (CYVPPB) was established. This group includes senior representatives from Policing, Public Health, Children's Services, Adult Services, Education, Probation, City of Culture, Faith Groups, Community Groups and Youth Justice. Supporting the CYVPPB is a Project Board and an Operational Group. The Project Board oversees the delivery of two externally funded projects (further information given later in this report) and a project funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (St. Giles Trust, "teachable moments" based in University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire and Wolverhampton Hospital). The Operational Group

will develop and deliver the action plan on behalf of the board. Membership of the operational group consists of managers across different services who are able to implement the strategic aims on a practical level within their service areas.



#### 4 Developing the Draft Coventry Youth Violence Prevention Strategy 2019 – 2029

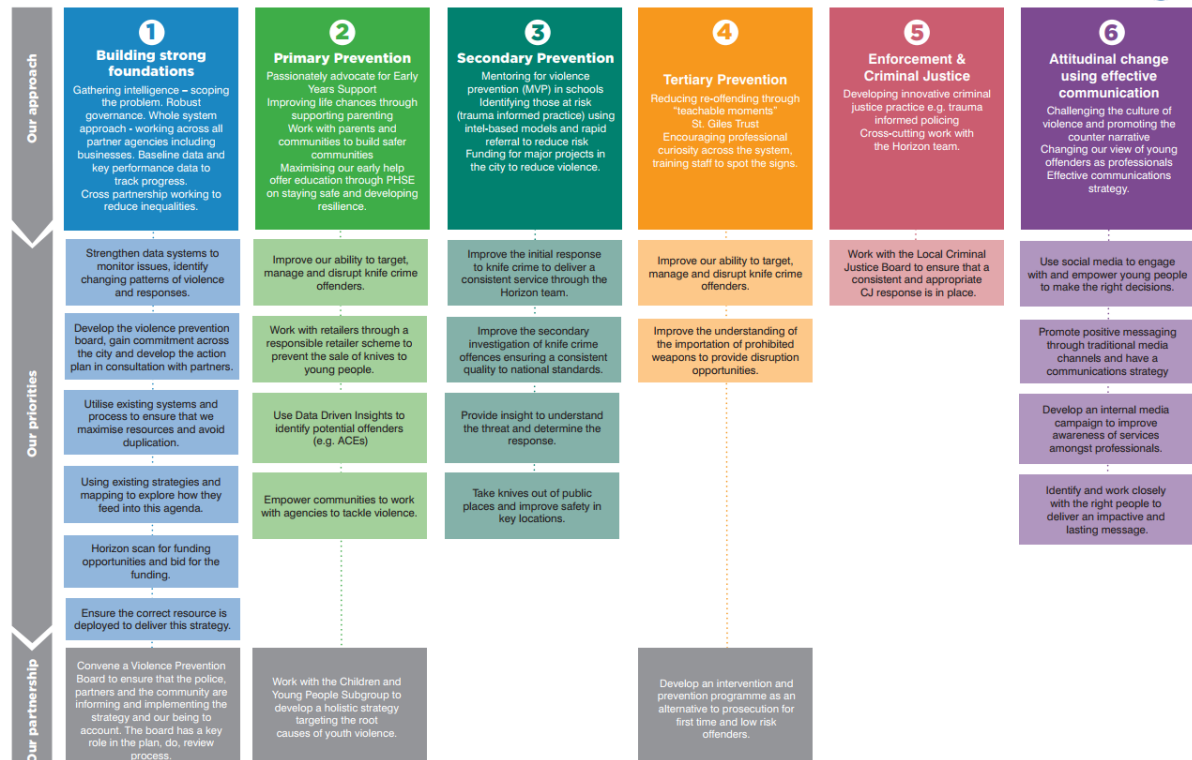
- 4.1 At its meeting on 17 June 2019, the CYVPPB agreed to draft a multi-agency strategy using a public health approach to address the issue of youth violence in the City. The draft strategy has been developed using an outline framework adopted by the West Midlands Regional Violence Reduction Unit as well as learning from public health approaches used across Scotland.
- 4.2 The draft strategy will be presented to the four boards, including this board, police and crime board and both safeguarding boards (dates of boards are given at the end of this report).

#### 5 Strategic Ambitions and Short-Term Priorities

- 5.1 The draft strategy sets out six key strategic objectives (based on the public health approach). Key to the success of the strategy will be the 'plan, do, review' process. There will be a 12-month delivery plan to support each key objective. These short-term plans will be reviewed annually for their effectiveness and adapted if needed.

# Coventry Youth Violence Prevention Strategy

Vision Statement: Empowering young people to be safe in our city #SafeCoventry



## 5.2 Approach and progress against the six key objectives:

**5.2.1 Building Strong Foundations** – this priority is about gathering intelligence and scoping the problem. We will take a whole systems approach which will include a cross disciplinary team focussed on youth violence. More broadly across the council we are changing the way we work using a “One Coventry” approach. We are well established as a Marmot City (a cross partnership approach to tackling health inequalities) which gives us a solid foundation on which to continue to build partnership approaches to problem solving.

**5.2.2 Primary prevention** - Evidence shows that there are root causes to violence, including poverty, inequalities and adverse childhood experiences. As a Marmot City we are already taking a systematic approach to tackling inequalities and the Marmot Steering Group is exploring how we can work together around early intervention and prevention. We will continue to advocate for Early Years Support. Plans and work programmes are already in operation across the City and progress will be fed into the delivery of this strategy.

**5.2.3 Secondary prevention** – There are already a number of programmes in operation across the City which are targeted towards those who are at higher risk of being drawn into violence. One example is the mentoring violence prevention programme in schools. Policing colleagues are closely linked with the Family Hubs to ensure a joined up approach when issues which require a higher level of intervention are identified, as well as working with the troubled families work programme to prevent escalation of risk.

**5.2.4 Tertiary prevention** – This plan will be about working with those who are already suffering the consequences of violence. There are a number of short-term funded projects in the City

that are working with individuals. Learning from these projects can be incorporated into everyday practice across agencies; developing a culture of professional curiosity and training for staff to spot warning signs, enabling early intervention.

**5.2.5 Enforcement and criminal justice-** This plan will be about developing innovative ways of working with the young people in the criminal justice system to prevent reoffending, and working with partners to look at alternatives to traditional criminal justice outcomes. The family drug and alcohol court (FDAC) is a good example of innovation which already exists in the City and we will consider how learning from this approach can be applied elsewhere. As a City we will explore, with partners, trauma informed responses and alternative approaches with young people. We will capture learning from the Horizon Team and the two externally funded projects (see appendix).

**5.2.5 Attitudinal change using effective communication** – Underpinning all the strategic objectives is effective communication to challenge the culture of violence and promoting a counter narrative. Effective internal and external communications need to be developed to promote alternatives for young people, empowering them to make the right decisions and supporting them into adulthood.

## **6 Mobilising the Strategy**

6.1 Since the first meeting of the Board in July, much work has been undertaken to mobilise the Strategy and to progress the short-term priorities identified. Over the past six months we have:

- Mobilised three projects within the City including one funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner which is working with young people admitted to hospital with traumatic injuries as a result of violence.
- Established joint, co-located police and children's services team focussed on youth violence within the Horizon Team.
- Secured substantial funding for the City (approx. £1million) from various sources including the Police and Crime Commissioner and Central Govt.
- Focussed operational policing towards violence and gang suppression activity
- Established schools interventions – Mentoring Violence Prevention Work
- Set up schools panels (schools and police partnership) at both primary and secondary level.
- Created Summer diversionary activities

A significant piece of work, which is yet to take place, is the effective mapping of the systems, assets, ways of working and resources already in place across the City. This will be a key focus for the newly appointed programme manager over the coming weeks.

## **7 Governance**

The Coventry Youth Violence Prevention Partnership Board will report into all four strategic boards listed below, and be accountable to the Chairs of Boards. Over time it is anticipated that each board will have specific areas of focus within the Youth Violence Prevention agenda.

7.1 The programme manager will provide coordination between the boards and ensure that senior managers, chairs of boards and other key individuals are kept updated on progress (both within and outside the local authority).

## 8 Timescales and Next Steps

The Draft Youth Violence Prevention Strategy will be taken to the four strategic boards and comments/suggestions noted for incorporation.

What	When
Police and Crime Board	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Adult Safeguarding Board	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
Children's Safeguarding Board	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019

### Report Author(s):

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**Directorate:** People

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Appendix – A short guide to externally funded projects in Coventry tackling Youth Violence.