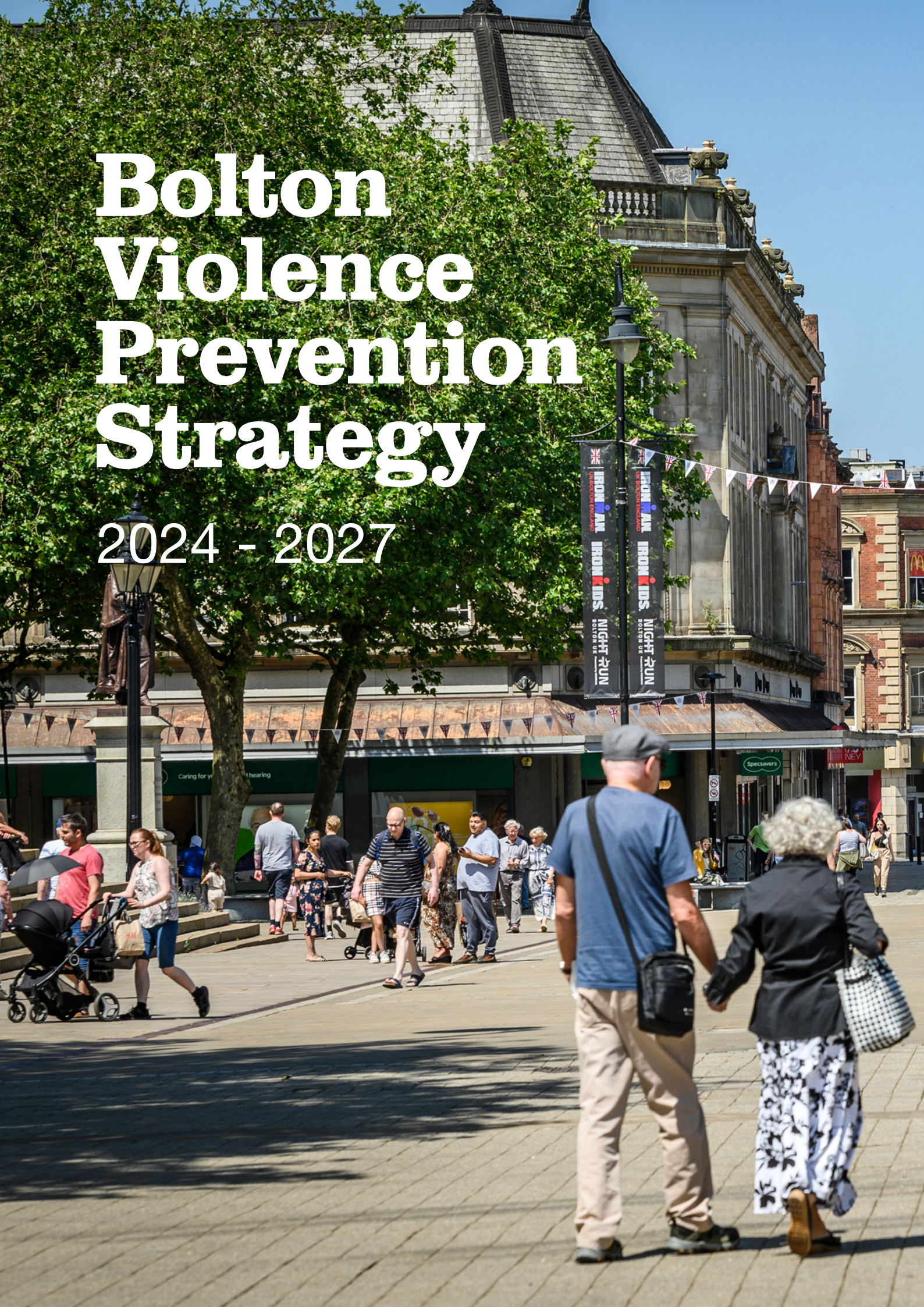


Bolton Violence Prevention Strategy

2024 - 2027



Foreword

Bolton is a proud borough, a fantastic place to live, work or learn, however like all towns and cities across the UK has its challenges in terms of preventing and tackling violent crime.

Our vision for Bolton is stronger, cohesive, more confident communities in which people feel safe, welcome, and connected. I believe this Violence Prevention Strategy is a vital step in the approach to achieving this.

Violence can be devastating for victims and their families; it can create fear and distrust in communities and its impact can be felt throughout generations. In Bolton we are absolutely committed to tackling violence and its root causes. Lots of good work is already being done to tackle violent crime and through the ongoing commitment to the whole system approach outlined in this strategy. I am excited to see how we can build on this and use the rich insight we have learnt through the serious violence needs assessment to target those areas and communities who need it most.

The development of the Violence Prevention Strategy would not have been possible without the participation and assistance of so many people and I would like to say a sincere thank you to our partners, key stakeholders, and the communities of Bolton for their valuable intelligence and insight.

Together, with the dedication of our partners and alongside our communities, we have an opportunity to make a really positive impact; to change the fortune of some of the most excluded in society and improve their outcomes.

Cllr Rabiya Jiva, Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities.

As Chairs of the Bolton Community Safety Partnership, we are delighted at the commitment shown by partners to the development of both the Serious Violence Needs Assessment and now our Violence Prevention Strategy.

There has been real buy-in at all levels reflecting the importance of this work and in support of keeping the communities of Bolton safe.

Our vision is clear – to prevent and reduce serious violence and the fear of such across our communities. We must work to ensure that no area of Bolton is disproportionately impacted by violence, and that through early and timely intervention we strive to build resilience and address the risk factors that we know can drive it.

We are confident that this strategy very much has Bolton's communities at its heart and believe the fantastic response we have had from our residents and young people taking part in our consultation and engagement events demonstrates just how important an issue this is. We must extend our thanks for the valuable contribution everyone has made in sharing their perceptions, experiences and expertise that have shaped our approach.

Prevention is key but where violence does occur, we will work together to act swiftly and appropriately. Together, we can make a real difference.

Chief Superintendent Stephanie Parker, Mark Aspin, Assistant Director Communities & Housing, Joint Chairs, Bolton Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

1. Introduction

Serious violence can have a devastating impact across all communities and walks of life.

From physical and emotional trauma, fear, and tragic loss of life, it can produce a ripple effect that reaches far beyond victims and perpetrators.

The Bolton Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is committed to creating a safe and secure environment for its residents. Everybody has the right to live free from violence and fear and we all have a role to play in striving for that vision, which is why we are committed to an approach which sees statutory agencies working alongside our voluntary and community sector colleagues, and the communities of Bolton to identify effective interventions which can deliver real sustainable change.

Violence is preventable, not inevitable. It should never be seen as 'normal' and is simply not acceptable in our society.

In Bolton we are proud of our strong partnership and believe this provides a solid foundation on which to deliver against the requirements of The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Part 2, **Chapter 1**) which, in January 2023, enacted a new Serious Violence Duty ('The Duty'). For the first time The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce Serious Violence.

In addition to the introduction of The Duty, Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has also been amended to make preventing and reducing serious violence a statutory duty for Community Safety Partnerships.

The Strategy

This strategy sets out Bolton's approach to prevent and reduce serious violent crime.

It draws on the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Needs Assessment 2023 (SNA) which serves as a vital tool in understanding the current picture of violence across our communities. The SNA takes an evidence-base approach to provide a greater understanding of established and emerging serious violence trends across Bolton. It considers the available data to ask why violence occurs, the impact of that violence on our communities, the circumstances that increase or decrease the risk for violence and crucially which communities and groups are most at risk.

By conducting a thorough analysis of available data, engaging with key stakeholders, and considering the experiences and perspectives of those affected, valuable insights into the root causes, patterns and dynamics of such crimes has provided an evidence based on which this strategic approach is based.

This strategy sets out Bolton's place-based whole system framework for violence prevention.

It outlines our strategic priorities, the core principles by which a proactive public health approach to serious violence will be delivered locally, and outlines what a successful strategic approach looks like.

The strategy details how we will monitor and evaluate progress in the work to tackle serious violence to ensure ongoing learning and development, with an overview of the key governance arrangements which will ensure real progress, accountability and transparency in this work.

What is serious violence?

In the development of this three-year Violence Prevention Strategy, the CSP has adopted the World Health Organisation's (WHO) broad definition of violence:

“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation,”
(WHO, 2002).

There is no set definition of serious violence and so, in consideration of the scope for this work violent offences were considered for inclusion in terms of their local impact and prevalence across all age groups, with a separate and distinct focus on under 25s.

The evidence-base has been developed by examining the following crime types as agreed by CSP partners:

- violence against the person
- weapons offences
- drug-based offences
- sexual offences including rape
- public order offences
- stalking and harassment

We recognise the importance of the strong interconnections with gender-based violence (including domestic abuse), as well as public space violence.

2. Our vision

We believe violence is preventable, not inevitable. Everyone should be able to live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.

Our vision is to prevent and reduce serious violence and fear faced by communities across Bolton.

We will work together to prevent violence, reduce its harmful impact and "where necessary" respond with robust enforcement. We will build on Bolton's strengths to deliver an evidence-led, problem-solving approach; working with our communities to build resilience and deliver effective interventions that address the drivers of violence within our communities.

By working together, and with our communities across Bolton, we will:

- Reduce serious violent crime in Bolton.
- Reduce hospital admissions for violence related injuries.
- Reduce knife-enabled serious violence, especially amongst those under 25.
- Reduce all homicides.
- Reduce the fear of crime and violence amongst Bolton's communities.
- Increase the involvement of Bolton's communities in work to prevent and reduce serious violence.



3. Our approach

Serious violence is a multi-faceted issue which no one agency can address alone.

A successful approach to addressing serious violence requires a joined up, evidence-led approach which brings agencies together at a local level to consider the nature and underlying causes of the problem in order to develop targeted interventions which tackle the root causes. It seeks to improve the health and safety of all communities through prevention strategies which address the multiple risk factors which cause and perpetuate violence and promotes the protective factors which mitigate against perpetration and victimisation.

Public health principles are widely recognised as providing a useful framework for investigating and understanding the causes and consequences of violence, providing a proven model of prevention which focuses on early intervention. The Community Safety Partnership have adopted a public health approach in its work to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a Public Health Approach to violence as one that:

Seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or perpetrator of violence.

The four steps of a Public Health Approach, World Health Organisation, (WHO 2002):

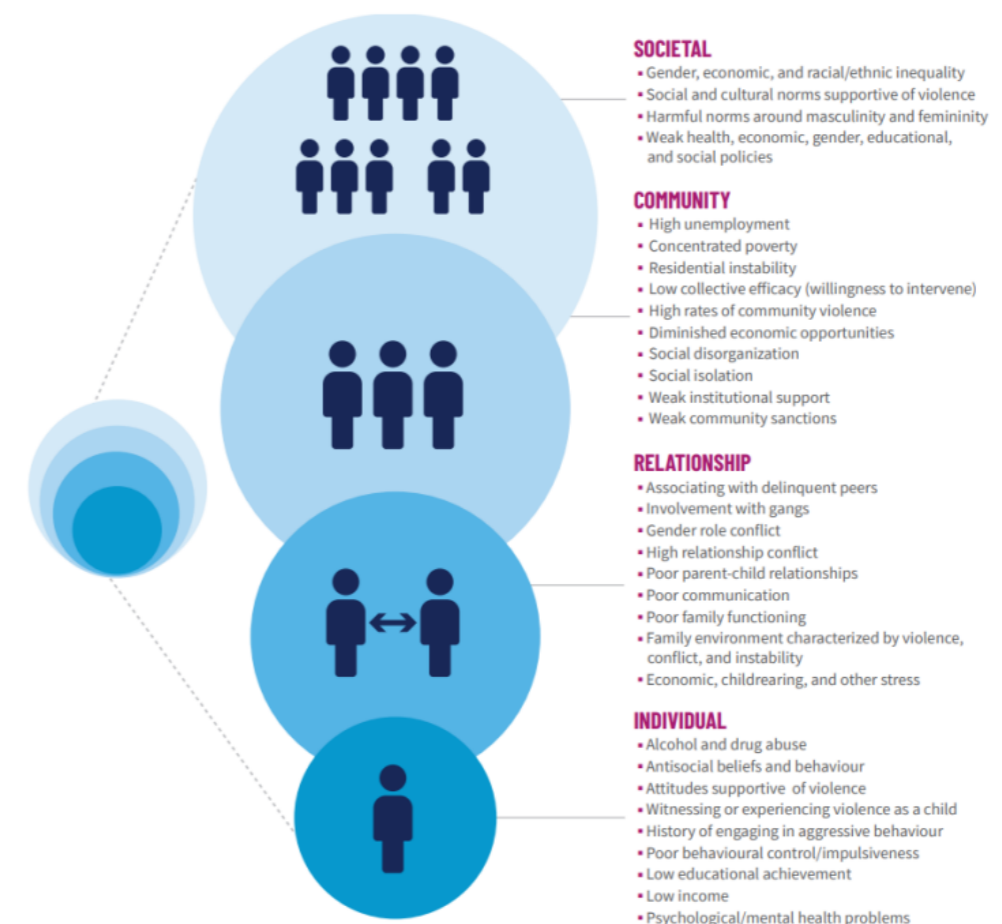


There is no one reason to explain why one person is more vulnerable to violence than the next. Relationships, the community in which a person lives, societal factors or adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can all affect an individual's susceptibility to violence. Key to a public health approach is understanding the common risk factors that make someone more vulnerable to violence,

whether that be as a victim or perpetrator, in order to develop effective preventative strategies.

A Public Health Ecological Framework recognises that violence is the outcome of the interplay of factors at four levels of society - the individual, the relationship, the community and the societal.

The Social-Ecological Model: A Framework for Prevention:



Source: World Health Organisation, WHO

By considering the risk and protective factors at each of those levels, we can better understand the complex interplay and what puts people at risk or protects them from violence. We must act across all levels to prevent violence.

A life course approach

Bolton's Strategic Needs Assessment 2023 strives to inform the local understanding around the risk and protective factors for serious violence in our communities.

It acknowledges the importance of how violence relates not only at the different levels of the Social Ecological Model, but also how it impacts individuals at each stage of the lifecycle. It takes account of health and social needs at all key life stages from pregnancy, through to childhood and adolescence, and into adulthood and older age.

In line with the life course approach, a separate and distinct focus for children and young people has been taken within both the SNA and Strategic framework. A Child First Approach has been adopted which recognises that children are different to adults, with very different needs and vulnerabilities and that they should not be treated in the same way.



Work to prevent and reduce serious violence in Bolton will take an evidence-informed approach to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors across the life cycle, seeking to align resources in the design and delivery of targeted prevention strategies.

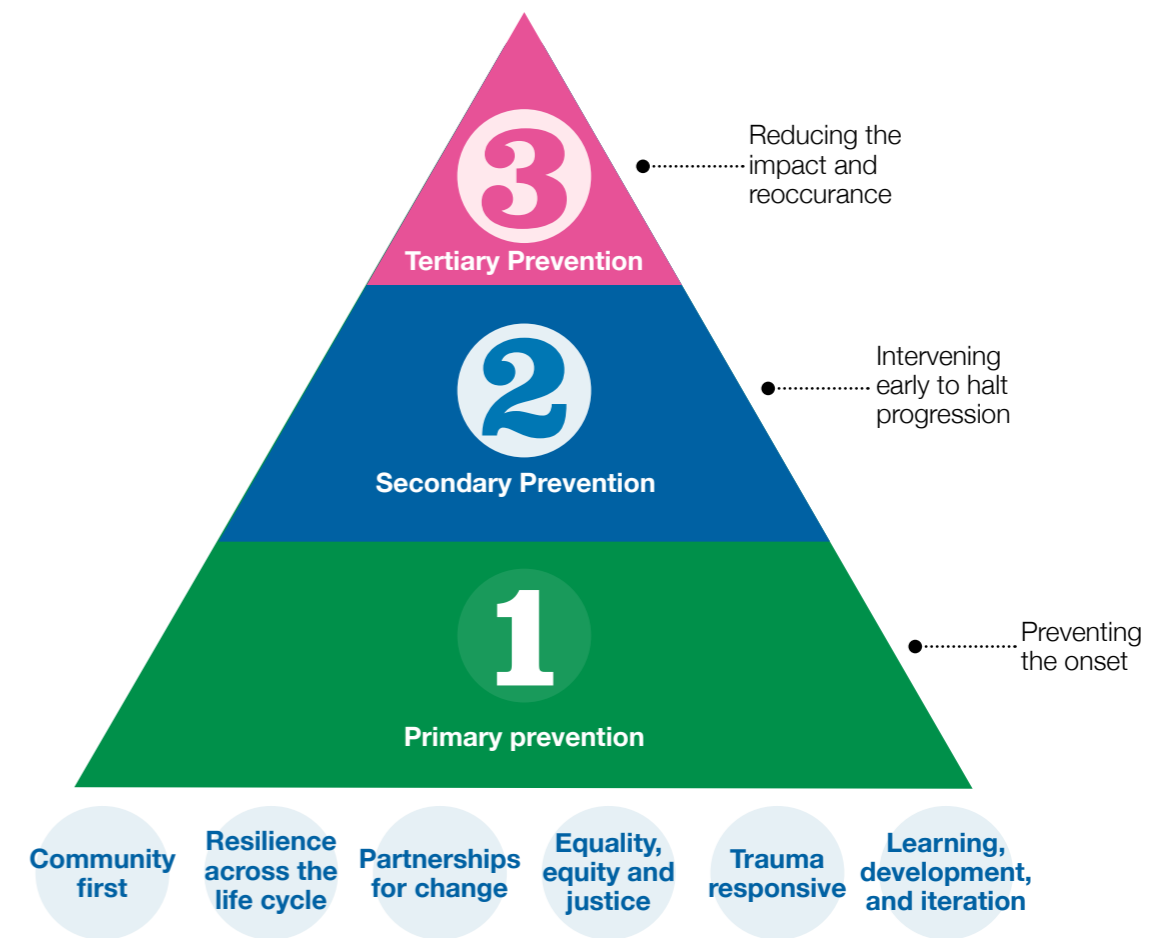
There will be a continued focus on further developing the understanding around the cohorts who find themselves increasingly vulnerable to violence in Bolton. Developing the local picture around the characteristics of these groups, their vulnerabilities and their care and support needs in relation to serious violence.

Adults who may be considered at risk due to their age, ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment for example or individuals who may be over-represented in those affected by serious violence as a result of their protected characteristics.

4. Bolton Violence Prevention Framework

The Community Safety Partnership have adopted a framework which sets out our vision to prevent violence across Bolton, and when it does occur, to reduce its harm.

The framework will be used as a basis on which to frame the partnership response to our key priorities as identified through the Strategic Needs Assessment 2023.



Levels of prevention

An effective approach which adopts public health principles involves interventions that address risk and protective factors in individuals, families, communities, and across communities to reduce violence at a community and/or population level.

Bolton's framework which sets out our vision to prevent and tackle serious violence, outlines prevention interventions as operating at various levels - intervening at different stages in time, including before the violence has occurred (primary prevention), during (secondary) or after the violence has occurred (tertiary prevention). It defines interventions to address violence as universal, selected or indicated.

The three steps to prevention

In Bolton, we recognise that key to the success of any preventative framework is establishing the necessary contextual conditions required for sustained change, which may include environmental, legislative, economic, and social-cultural change.



1 Primary Prevention

Stopping violence before it starts

To prevent violence before it occurs by establishing the necessary conditions, addressing the root causes, and strengthening protective factors. The primary prevention of conditions for violence should be our main objective.

2 Secondary Prevention

Immediate response to violence

Early intervention to prevent the progression of violence if prevention has not been possible.

3 Tertiary Prevention

Long-term response to violence

Responding to violence once it has occurred and looking to find ways to help people move away from a life of violence. To intervene once the violence problem is evident and causing harm, to prevent recurrence through criminal justice responses and to provide effective support for victims and perpetrators.

Our system principles:

The Community Safety Partnership has identified a set of six system principles which will underpin how violence will be addressed across Bolton.

1. Community first

Work to prevent and reduce serious violence should be with, and for, local communities. We will strive for meaningful engagement which reaches out beyond the most established voices by drawing on the expertise and networks of our partners.

We will seek to increase the influence and involvement of communities to actively participate and get involved in tackling issues that affect them, widening involvement particularly of young people and those most affected or at risk of violence so that solutions are more relevant, responsive, and effective.

We will improve the visibility and awareness of partnership activity around violence and vulnerability to nurture communities that feel informed and involved; and we will develop our understanding of the perception and fear of violence through regular community conversation.

2. Resilience across the life cycle

A whole family, life course approach which recognises that prevention holds the greatest potential if we intervene at the earliest opportunities and invest in timely intervention.

We will seek to identify key opportunities for minimising risk factors and enhancing protective factors at key life stages to promote resilience. A distinct and separate focus for children and young people will ensure their differing needs and vulnerabilities are recognised and will facilitate a child-first approach in work to prevent and reduce serious violence.



Types of intervention to address violence

Prevention is at the heart of a successful approach to tackle violence. While the preference is to prevent violence occurring in the first place, it is critically important that where violence does occur, we aim to prevent its escalation in order to reduce the harm, adopting an early intervention approach which aims for sustainable change through diversion, rehabilitation and recovery.

The three levels of prevention focus on different populations starting with a focus on a whole community and then becoming more specialised and targeted, with interventions aimed at those identified as at risk, and then those who have already perpetrated or experienced violence.

Universal – Universal interventions are by definition available to all. They are aimed at the general population.

Targeted selected – Targeted at those identified as more at risk of violence.

Targeted indicated (specialist) – Targeted at those who have committed or experienced violence.

3. Partnerships for change

Violence is a complex, multi-faceted issue and no one agency can address the issue alone. Through a collaborative whole-system approach we will bring together partners with a broad range of functions, with the shared goal of tackling and preventing violence.

We will seek to build on Bolton's strengths by using existing structures and maximising opportunities for partners to share knowledge through whole system thinking and action.

Effective cooperation in data sharing and intelligence will be a key enabler in work to understand serious violence and its causes, and in informing the development of evidence-informed approaches and evaluation of targeted intervention.

We will aim to build a culture of accountability in achieving our shared priorities; ensuring links between the serious violence work and closely aligned work plans to avoid duplication and ensure clear consistent messaging.

4. Equality, equity and justice

When implementing and prioritising effective prevention activity we will ensure this reaches the populations identified most at risk to violence and impacts positively on reducing inequalities.

We will align our approach with cross cutting work streams and strive to provide a counter-narrative to violence, providing opportunities for development to those most vulnerable, with the option to pursue alternatives to criminal activities. We will aim to protect those most vulnerable from exploitation, promoting positive narratives and aspirations to develop a culture which champions opportunity for change and the social norms we wish to see.

5. Trauma responsive

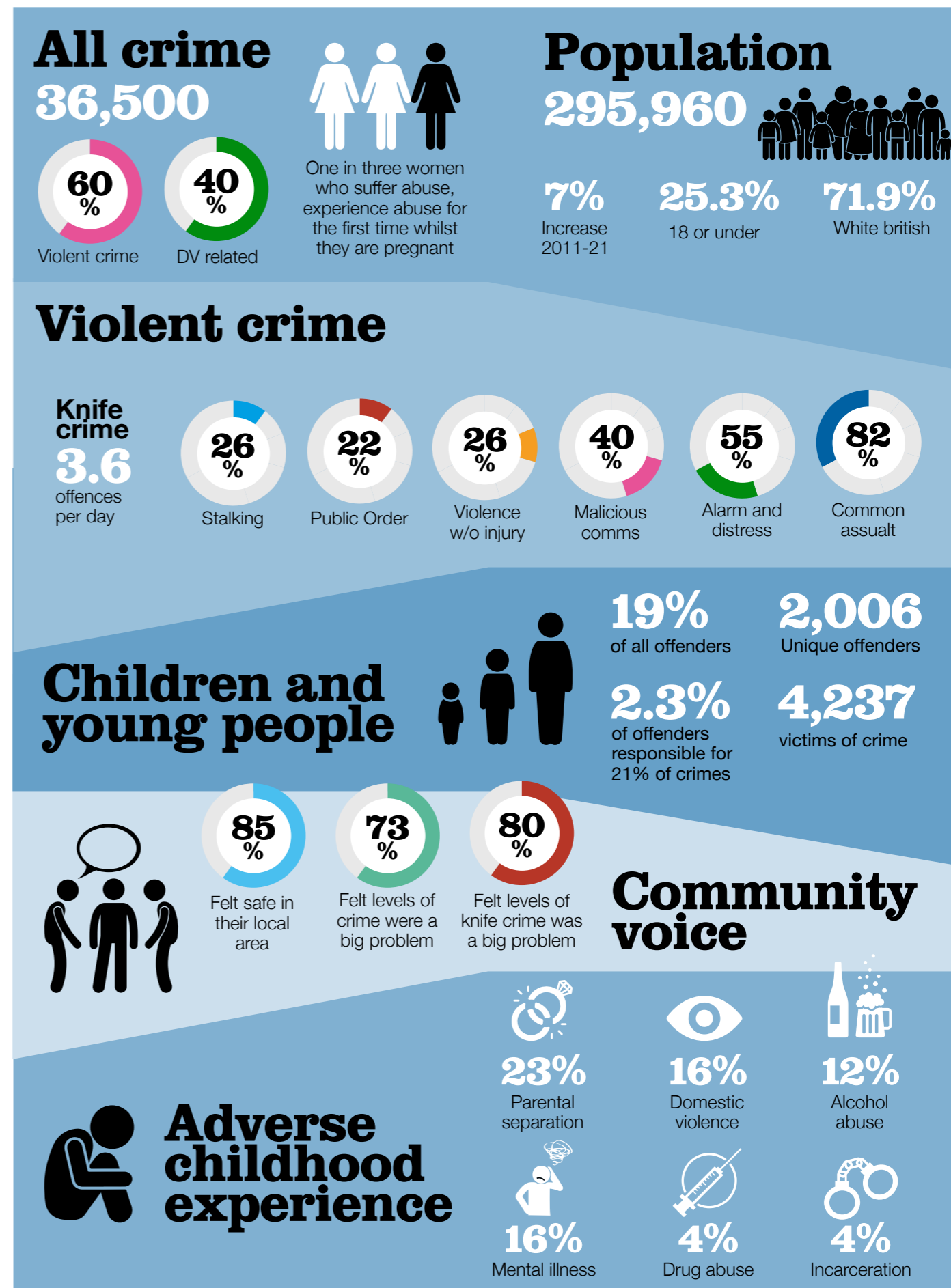
We recognise the importance of a trauma responsive approach in supporting those most vulnerable to serious violence and in promoting resilience amongst our communities. We will support and embed work which looks to create a shared local understanding of Adverse Child Experiences (ACEs) and the trauma responsive agenda, and in equipping the workforce with the skills and knowledge to effectively recognise and respond to ACEs/trauma. Training and development opportunities under this agenda will be embedded in work plans and close alignment with related workstreams will ensure clear, consistent messaging.

6. Learning, development, and iteration

We will continually monitor, review and safeguard high harm locations, communities, and contexts as well as expand this knowledge across and beyond the network to promote a shared understanding and improve our collective effectiveness in preventing and tackling serious violence.

We will build on Bolton's strengths by promoting continual learning and development.

A commitment and focus on evaluation and performance management will determine ongoing effectiveness of commissioned intervention and ensure resource is directed effectively to build resilience amongst those most at risk. We will invite stakeholder and community feedback; and seek learning and evidence of 'what work's on a local, regional, and national scale to inform our partnership approach.



5. Strategic themes and priorities

The Serious Violence Needs Assessment has highlighted a number of key themes and crime types which we believe "if effectively addressed" are key to building resilience within our at-risk communities and to preventing and reducing serious violence across Bolton.

Three themes have been identified as priority work areas for the partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence over the next three years.

For each priority, bespoke plans will be developed which apply the tiered violence prevention framework to consider existing and ongoing work in this area, and to identify where further focus or targeted interventions are required.

Priority 1: Places and spaces

A number of geographical locations were repeatedly highlighted across all elements of serious violent offending. By implementing targeted interventions which look to reduce the risk factors and enhance the protective factors within these contexts, we will aim to build resilience amongst those communities who live, work in, or visit these locations.

An evidence-led focus on high harm locations and communities to build resilience will ensure:

- Places and contexts that are healthier and safer for people.
- Risks in 'hot spot' localities are lowered; with effective support available for those who need it.
- Positive enforcement strategies to prevent/address violence and reduce the harm.

An evidence-led approach which includes ongoing, regular review of data and intelligence to consider high harm locations will ensure that interventions remain targeted to those locations across the borough that need them. It will also inform an understanding around any displacement that may occur following targeted intervention.

Town Centre

The Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 identified the town centre locality as having an increased level of violence in terms of both volume and seriousness. The strategic response will therefore take an initial focus on the town centre.

What the Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 says:

- 22.3% of all violent crime offences relate to public order (22/23).
- Violent offences are clustered around town centre locations, the Hospital, and the main Police Station.
- 62% of all offences committed within the town centre fall within our definition of serious violent crime. At a borough level 59% of all crime reported is violent in nature so the town centre represents a hot spot for these events (22/23).
- There is a clear concentration of the most severe violent offences within Bolton Town Centre, with 71 offences recorded with a crime severity rating within the top 10% of the most severe crimes.
- 423 weapons offences reported within Bolton in 22/23. 361 (85%) related to knife and other weapons offences with significant hotspots for these offences within the town centre and the wider ward of Queens Park and Central.

Priority 2: Youth violence

Our ambition for Bolton is that

“Our children get the best possible start in life, so that they have every chance to succeed and be happy.”

(Bolton Vision, 2030).

We aim to ensure our children and young people are safe and protected from harm, with support tailored to their background and need. This means a life free from abuse, protection from exploitation and from being drawn into or exposed to serious violence.

Prevention is at the core of a public health approach to address violence, recognising the importance of early intervention across the life cycle but particularly amongst children and young people.

In-line with the Home Office priorities to include a focus on those under 25 years, this strategy identified tackling youth violence as a key priority.

The framework supports a child first, whole family approach which aims to ensure:

- Our children and young people have a reduced risk of being affected by serious violence.
- Our children and young people are safe at home and in the community.
- Our children and young people affected by serious violence are effectively supported and safeguarded – ‘right help, at the right time, by the right people.’
- Our children and young people feel safer.

What the Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 says: Recognising the very different needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people in relation to violence, the Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 includes a separate and distinct focus on those under 25:

Offenders:

- 5,642 violent crimes are linked to a known young person aged 25 or under.
- There are 2,972 unique individuals who have offended (under 25), representing 27% of all known violent offenders. Although the cohort crime types mirror the

full cohort in terms of volume (public order, stalking and violence with/without injury), there are some subtle differences. Sexual and possession (drugs and weapons) offences are more prevalent in the younger age group. There are also less stalking and public order offences within the under 25 cohort.

- 3,121 offences where a youth suspect had been identified related to our definition of violent crime. This related to 2,601 violent crimes committed by 1,603 offenders as it is common that multiple suspects are identified for each unique crime. At 74% of the total crimes recorded based on an identified juvenile suspect this is significant.
- 70% of all children who have offended (under 18) where a sex was provided were male and 28% female.
- Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding data (22/23) identified 122 individual cases of young people involved in a serious violent crime. The largest percentage of the sample were 16 years old with 70% being in the age range of 16 – 18 years old. 80% of the clients were male. The largest proportion of Youth Justice clients define themselves as White British (64%) and the largest ethnic group were clients of a Pakistani heritage. Clients of Black origin are also over-represented in the data by 2.5%.

Victims:

- 4,237 crimes were reported in 22/23 that had a young person (or multiple young people) attached as a victim (under 18)
- 25% were victims of violence without injury, 19% of stalking and harassment and 17% of violence with injury.
- The prominent age group was 14- 15 years old, with 23% as a victim. 53% of these victims were female.

Knife crime:

- Young people in Bolton generally thought that violent crime was a problem, with 55% agreeing that carrying knives and other weapons was an issue.
- 29% of young people reported having carried a knife or weapon or known someone who had,

- 50% of young people reported they were worried about being beaten up in Bolton or are scared that an attacker may be carrying a knife, (Community Safety Survey, 2023).
- The scale of juvenile knife crime is likely to be wider than the figures suggest. An analysis of the MO field looking for key words that appertain to knife crime indicated that knives were mentioned in approximately 979 offence types. Given that young people are responsible for 19% of all violent crime within the borough a significant proportion of these offences would relate to them.
- Juvenile knife crime could equate to approximately 282 offences over the year, approximately one crime every other day.

Risk and protective factors:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have a profound and long-lasting impact on a person's physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Just over half (51.7%) of Bolton residents aged 18yrs and over reported exposure to at least 1 ACE, with approximately one in ten (10.8%) reporting exposure to 4 or more ACEs (Childhood Adversity and Health and Wellbeing during Covid-19 Study, 2021).
- A detailed profile of young people who have committed violent offences has revealed a higher risk in reoffending relating to a number of risk factors: Those not in education, training or employment, offenders with speech, language and communication difficulties with links to poor mental health and substance misuse. The current relationships an offender has, linked to poor parenting, were also revealed as significant risk factors.
- Research studies reveal the link between speech, language, and communication development in children and how this then translates into behavioural issue and mental health impacts in adolescence.
- Research suggests that children with care and support needs, e.g. looked after children, are vulnerable to perpetration and victimisation of serious violence, often linked to their earlier experiences of trauma, abuse and neglect.

- Stakeholders highlighted the increasing impact of social media on the lives of young people within Bolton and specifically their involvement in violence requires further focus to develop a greater understanding across partners to inform an evidence-led response.

Priority 3: Gender based violence

Gender based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for harmful acts of abuse directed against a person because of their gender. It refers to the many forms of abuse, harm and violation that are directed, at least in part, by sexist expectations and which reinforce the sexual inequalities.

Gender based violence affects women and girls, but not exclusively. Although it is important to recognise that anyone can become a victim of gender-based violence, it is also important to understand that gender-based violence is predominantly committed by men and boys towards women and girls.

Gender based violence is not unique to Bolton. It is a global issue which can be deep-rooted in gender inequality and subconscious bias developed over generations, and occurs irrespective of class, ethnicity, faith, sexuality or where you live.

Bolton's strategic framework will embed the local response to gender-based violence as a priority. It outlines an evidence-led approach which prioritises prevention and early intervention activities in the ambition to prevent gender-based violence occurring in the first place; and where it does occur aims to minimise the harm and build resilience by ensuring the 'right support, right place, right time.'

It aims to:

- Make it as easy as possible for victims and their families to access joined up, victim-focused support and guidance.
- Safeguard women and girls in high harm locations and contexts through an evidence-led approach.
- Challenge the attitudes and social conditions that sustain or excuse gender-based violence,
- enable those perpetrators who want to change to do so.

What the Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2023 says:

- 8,976 women and girls were victims of a violent crime in 22/23, equating to 30% of all known crime victims (Note: This just relates to GMP victim data, the actual amount is likely to be significantly higher).
- 43% relate to stalking and harassment, followed by 28% relating to violence without injury.
- The most vulnerable age for this type of crime is between 20 – 39 years and it is also prevalent in the 10 -19 year old age group.
- Sexual offences account for 5% of serious violent offences in Bolton (22/23) – 36% of which relate to rape, and the remainder to less serious sexual offences.
- Sexual offences are predominantly committed against females, with just over 10% relating to male victims and 31% of the victims being 16 or under.

Domestic abuse:

- 27.4% of all serious violence reported in Bolton is domestic abuse related.
- 18.7% of all crime has a domestic element and this rises to 27.4% of crimes that are defined as violent within the strategic needs assessment.
- Stalking and harassment within each dataset has a significant number of crimes that are DV related with 33.2% and 38/6% respectively. Violence with/without injury also features significantly.
- At 145 the number of reported rapes that are DV related accounts for 33% of the total within the borough.
- Of the 30,295 victims identified 23.8% (7,231) have been a victim of domestic violence. 73.5% of these victims are female and 26% male, which suggest that DV does have a significant impact on male victims also. The largest cohort of victims (26%) fall between the ages of 34 – 43years.

The Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy 2022-25 was developed by Bolton's Domestic Abuse and Violence Partnership Board in response to



the Government's Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The strategy together with the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment should be considered as part of any focused work around gender-based violence.

Stalking and harassment:

- Stalking and harassment crimes are the major contributor to violent crime within Bolton at 26% of the total. Of these 40% relate to malicious communication. 33% of all malicious communications are DV related and a further 33% relate to cyber bullying.
- Many of the stalking and harassment offences committed by juveniles are social media and digitally based. Of the juvenile victims of a violent offence, 11% were a victim of malicious communication.
- The number of sexual assaults within the town centre is significant and many of these involve language and touching of a physical nature which could be driven by the culture of toxic masculinity.
- Young people have highlighted violence against women and girls as a priority for them and as an area which needs further resource and focus.

6. Impact and continuous improvement: Monitoring and evaluation

Bolton's is committed to a process of continuous growth and improvement in the approach to tackle serious violence. By reviewing the Strategy on a 12 month basis, in line with the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, we will ensure it remains relevant and in-line with current societal dynamics and challenges.

The strategic framework outlined throughout this strategy focuses on continual learning and development as a core principle. A commitment to ensure the approach remains evidence led and responsive to the needs of our communities.

Measures of success

A performance framework will guide progress against each of our strategic priorities and will provide a mechanism for accountability and continued evaluation of intervention effectiveness.

Bespoke plans will be developed which apply the tiered violence prevention framework for each priority to consider existing and ongoing work in this area, and to identify where further focus or targeted interventions are required. Specific aims and objectives developed for each of the strategic priorities will provide more concise and distinct deliverables that contribute to achieving the high-level outcomes and enable us to monitor progress more effectively.

We will:

Harm reduction – We will monitor the intelligence and data relating to levels of serious violence across Bolton.

Perceptions and fear of crime – We will aim to develop a greater understanding of current perceptions and fear of violence in Bolton by seeking to understand how safe people feel through local and regional safety consultations.

Our commitments – We will regularly and systematically review progress against each of the commitments made within this response strategy and associated action plans; and ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of existing interventions.

Home Office impact measures:

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

Bolton's impact measures:

- Reduce serious violent crime in Bolton.
- Reduce hospital admissions for violence related injuries.
- Reduce knife-enabled serious violence, especially amongst those under 25.
- Reduce all homicides.
- Reduce the fear of crime and violence amongst Boltons communities.
- Increase the involvement of Boltons communities in work to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Bolton's Violence Prevention Strategy is the start of a three year journey in delivering our one borough approach to preventing and reducing serious violence.

Evolving with the changing needs and challenges of our communities the ambition of the strategy will remain aligned to the Vision for Bolton as Active, Connected and Prosperous.

7. Governance and accountability

No one organisation can resolve serious violence on its own, and so governing a partnership approach is essential to the delivery of this strategy. To ensure real progress, accountability, and transparency, Bolton's response strategy and its delivery will be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). This governance structure is in-line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which, following amendments introduced by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, now requires CSPs to have Serious Violence as a strategic priority.

The Strategic Priorities as outlined in this strategy will be delivered under existing partnership arrangements where

possible to ensure clear alignment with existing work streams.

The Community Safety Partnership has worked closely with the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in the production of The Violence Prevention Strategy for Bolton. This has ensured close alignment to related regional strategic plans including the Greater Manchester 'Standing Together' Police and Crime Plan 2022-25, the Gender-Based Violence Strategy 2021 and the VRU 10 year Greater Than Violence Strategy for Preventing and Reducing Violence.

The Vision 2030 - Active, Connected and Prosperous



Working together to tackle serious violence

Key to the success of Bolton's Strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence is the local commitment to a partnership approach in driving this work forward.

The Serious Violence Needs Assessment and Violence Prevention Strategy 2024-27 has been co-produced and will be co-delivered by Bolton's specified authorities in partnership with required authority partners.

**Bolton Violence
Prevention Strategy**

2024 - 2027