

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	24 January 2024
Executive Member:	Councillor Vimal Choksi – Executive Member (Towns and Communities)
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Watson, Director of Public Health
Subject:	TAMESIDE SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2024 - 2029
Report Summary:	<p>This report provides an outline of the Serious Violence Strategy for Tameside. This is a five year strategy in response to the new Serious Violence Duty which came into effect in January 2023 across England. This requires a range of local ‘specified authorities’ to set out a strategy for how they will reduce and prevent serious violence in the local area. The strategy for Tameside is based on the findings and recommendations from the Tameside Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment which was completed in the autumn of 2023.</p> <p>This strategy aligns to wider priorities across the council including the Health & Wellbeing Strategy; Building Resilience, Tackling Poverty Strategy; and the Community Safety Strategy. This also reflects close working with the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit and aligns to work done at a Greater Manchester level.</p> <p>This strategy will be delivered by, and have oversight from, the Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board, which has representation from each of the specified authorities with responsibility for delivering the duty. This report seeks approval for the final public version of the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy to be published as per the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty. Ongoing delivery and monitoring of the priorities within the strategy will take place at the Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board, including the development of an action plan.</p>
Recommendations:	Executive Cabinet is asked to provide approval of the final five-year Tameside Serious Violence Strategy for publication to ensure the council, along with other specified authorities, meets the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.
Corporate Plan:	The priority areas in this strategy are broad reaching around the root causes and risk factors for serious violence, and influence several areas of the Corporate Plan and across the life-course, particularly Very Best Start in Life; Resilient Families and Supportive Networks; and Nurturing Communities.
Policy Implications:	Complies with policy.
Financial Implications:	The Council and key partners (as stated in section 1.2) need to ensure delivery of the strategy within existing budget allocations.
(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	Robust business cases will be required for any additional investment to support the delivery of the strategy that will clearly need to demonstrate the efficiencies that will be realised, pay back timescale for the requested investment together with the impact on

the demand on existing and future service provision.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

The publication of this strategy follows the requirements outlined in the Serious Violence Duty and the statutory guidance for responsible authorities published by the Home Office in December 2022.

Risk Management:

Publication of this strategy will ensure that the council and other specified authorities meet their statutory duties as outlined in the Serious Violence Duty. The Community Safety Partnership Board provides robust governance to ensure that the priorities in this strategy are delivered and monitored.

Access to Information:

All papers relating to this report can be obtained by contacting: James Mallion, Assistant Director of Public Health

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting James Mallion, Assistant Director of Public Health



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Serious Violence Strategy for Tameside explains the steps that will be taken across the borough to reduce and prevent serious violence over the next five years. In January 2023, the Government introduced a statutory duty, known as The Serious Violence Duty. This requires “specified authorities for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area”.
- 1.2 The ‘specified authorities’ are responsible in every area for developing and delivering this strategy. In Tameside, these are:
- Tameside Council
 - Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
 - Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS)
 - Probation Services
 - Youth Offending Services
 - NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (NHS GM ICB)
- 1.3 Tameside’s Serious Violence Strategy makes commitments across all of the specified authorities, to take long term approaches to tackle the root causes and risk factors of serious violence. Preventative and early-intervention approaches will be central to this, alongside ensuring ongoing conversations with communities across Tameside to inform the approaches being taken. This strategy outlines some of the key issues around the extent of serious violence in Tameside and the priority interventions and steps needed, working with communities, to both prevent and respond to incidents of serious violence in Tameside to meet the Serious Violence Duty. The full strategy can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

2. DEVELOPING THE SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY FOR TAMESIDE & GOVERNANCE

- 2.1 The Serious Violence Strategy for Tameside uses a public health approach to tackling serious violence by treating this as a preventable health issue and identifying and addressing the root causes and risk factors. This approach shifts the focus from solely law enforcement and criminal justice responses to a broader range of issues including social, economic, and environmental factors.
- 2.2 Tameside’s Serious Violence Strategy has been developed in partnership with Greater Manchester’s Violence Reduction Unit and is designed to complement the Greater Manchester *Greater Than Violence* strategy. The priorities and approaches that have been put forward are also evidence based, drawing on the findings and recommendations in the 2023 Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment for Tameside, which can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 2.3 A range of engagement has taken place with partners in relation to both the strategic needs assessment and the serious violence strategy. Existing public engagement and insights from recent work including the poverty strategy; health and wellbeing strategy; and inequalities reference group was used to inform aspects of this strategy. The priorities set out acknowledge the need to continue to have conversations with the community and do further engagement around this issue.
- 2.4 In terms of governance, the strategy will be delivered in partnership by the specified authorities who sit on the Community Safety Partnership Board for Tameside. There will also be ongoing collaboration and engagement with the relevant authorities under the duty, via their involvement in the Tameside Community Safety Partnership. Ongoing delivery and monitoring of progress against the strategy will sit with the Community Safety Partnership Board, where a detailed action plan will be developed and delivered, and regular updates will

be provided as work progresses. This oversight will ensure that the requirements of the legislation are fulfilled, including those under the Crime and Disorder Act. This will also foster a partnership approach to achieving the ambitions set out in this strategy.

- 2.5 These governance arrangements will oversee the implementation of a public health approach and drive to support partnership working to ensure visibility for overlapping areas such as safeguarding, equality, trauma-responsive service and domestic abuse. Data will be monitored via an outcomes framework which sits with the Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board and is reviewed on a regular basis.
- 2.6 An Equality Impact Assessment of the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy has also been completed, which can be found in Appendix 3 of this report.

3. STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT – KEY FINDINGS

- 3.1 The statutory guidance for local areas around the new Serious Violence Duty stipulates that local strategies to prevent and reduce serious violence must be based on an evidence-based strategic needs assessment to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the local area, and the causes of that serious violence.
- 3.2 To assist the ten Greater Manchester boroughs in preparing for the Serious Violence Duty, the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit completed a Strategic Needs Assessment around serious violence earlier in 2023. The strategic needs assessment for Tameside is based on local data and insight but also draws on the insight from the GM needs assessment, to ensure these approaches align.
- 3.3 A strategic needs assessment has been completed for Tameside during autumn 2023, which takes a comprehensive, life course approach to examine both the prevalence and trends around violent crime in Tameside, as well as the root causes and risk factors associated with serious violence. The needs assessment has produced a series of key findings and recommendations for the specified authorities in Tameside, which informs the Serious Violence Strategy. The Strategic Needs Assessment can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 3.4 A number of key findings in Tameside have been highlighted through this work, many of which are summarised in the diagram below.



Serious Violence in Tameside 2023

Deprivation



28th most deprived local authority out of 317 local authorities in England.

Poverty



Increased Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



45% lone-parents are in poverty.



Higher proportion of low-income jobs.

Wider Determinants



Lone parent households.



Not in education employment or training (NEETs)



Median incomes



Educational attainment.

Violent Crime



Tameside has seen increases in all reported violent crimes and on an upward trend. This is also the same for the number of attendances to hospital for violence related injuries.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse



More licensed premises per square km than in the region or nationally.



Majority of violent crime correlates with the hours when licensed premises are open.



Protected Characteristics



Higher proportion of the population live with a disability.



Over-representative population from ethnic minority communities for both victims and perpetrators of violent crime.

Location



Most prevalent around Town Centre locations including Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Hyde and Hattersley Town Centres.

Victims



Young males (under 16 years of age) are over-represented in a number of violent crime measures both as victims and perpetrators.

Children & Young People



High rate of suspensions and permanent exclusions.



More serious violent offences within the Youth Justice System.

Possession of Weapons



Disproportionately higher compared to the rest of Greater Manchester, linked to Domestic Abuse and associated with young males.

Domestic Abuse



High-risk domestic abuse has high prevalence in Tameside.



A high proportion of violent crime, particularly knife crime is associated with Domestic Abuse in Tameside.

Self-directed Violence



The rate of self-harm in Tameside remains significantly worse than the national average.

Personal Robbery



Lower in Tameside than expected. Males are more likely to be a victim and crimes take place in Town Centres.

Safeguarding and Ageing Well



Increases in adult safeguarding referrals have been seen in the last few years and may be linked to residents facing multi-disadvantage and complex care issues.



4. PRIORITIES FOR TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

4.1 The Serious Violence Strategy for Tameside puts forward five priority areas where actions will be taken over the next five years to improve how serious violence is reduced and prevented. These five priorities align to the priorities set in the Greater Manchester *Greater Than Violence* Strategy, however the actions under each priority area are specific to Tameside, based on the evidence and findings from the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment.

4.2 The priorities apply to all of the 'specified authorities' in Tameside, which includes Tameside Council; NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board, Greater Manchester Police; Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service; Probation Services; and Youth Offending Services.

4.2.1 Priority 1: Community-Led Approach – The three objectives under this priority focus on engaging with residents in Tameside on issues relating to serious violence, as well as a focus on specific settings such as prisons and education, and those who are at greatest risk of being both victims and perpetrators of serious violence

4.2.2 Priority 2: Early and Timely Intervention – The seven objectives under this priority focus on support for children and young people. This is both in terms of the risk of serious violence, as well as the preventative approach to intervene early for those who need support such as pregnant women and lone parent households on lower incomes; and where there are problematic behaviours or issues around school attendance and engagement. There are also some key themes which are a focus for Tameside including tackling poverty and the harms associated with the wide availability of alcohol in the community.

4.2.3 Priority 3: Partnerships for Change – The five objectives under this priority focus on engagement and joint working between the specified authorities and other partners, including ongoing work with the GM VRU; joint work across existing partnership boards in Tameside; sharing best practice; and having a robust approach to monitoring outcomes and progress.

4.2.4 Priority 4: Equality, Equity and Justice – The six objectives under this priority focus on targeting the right support for those who need it most in relation to serious violence. Some of the groups identified include vulnerable adults; those in contact with probation services; people with substance misuse issues and victims of domestic abuse. Other opportunities are highlighted including the need to tackle weapons offences; building relationships with faith leaders; and local employers and businesses

4.2.5 Priority 5: Trauma Responsive Support for Communities in Tameside – The seven objectives under this priority focus on further targeted approaches in a trauma-responsive way. This will include support for those groups who face additional barriers and are at increased risk from serious violence. This section also highlights the community response required including in several town centres which see concentrations of violent crime.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Alongside approval of this strategy by Executive Cabinet, this strategy will also be signed-off within the individual organisations and agencies of each of the specified authorities which the Serious Violence Duty applies to. Nationally there is a requirement to publish this strategy on

the website of each specified authority by 31 January 2024, which will be completed, following this sign off.

- 5.2 The Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board will continue to ensure representation from each of the specified authorities and this is where the ongoing delivery and oversight of the strategy will be held.
- 5.3 Under the five priorities in the strategy, an action plan will be developed, to sit with the Community Safety Partnership Board and Operational Delivery Group. This will drive forward the pieces of work and the commissioning plan required to deliver on the priorities and objectives set out in the strategy.
- 5.4 A communications and engagement plan will also be developed as part of this work to raise awareness and provide assurance of the actions being taken across communities in Tameside to prevent and reduce serious violence.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 As set out at the front of the report.