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## **Strategic Needs Assessment for Serious Violence 2023**

# Version Control

Version	Date	Updated By	Updates
V1	23.08.2023	Michelle Foxcroft	Initial draft
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V7	27.10.2023	Debbie Watson	Various changes throughout document including in Key Findings and Recommendations. All changes tracked and various comments added for action
V8	08.11.2023	Michelle Foxcroft & James Mallion	Further information added throughout document particularly relating to school exclusions, Domestic Homicide reviews, safety and public perceptions of crime (survey and community voice info). Updates to VAWG, DA and Sexual violence sections. Updates to Key Findings and Recommendations.

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# Introduction, Aims and Objectives

## Acknowledgements

The completion of this strategic needs assessment would not have been possible without the participation and assistance of partners. Their contributions are appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. They include Population Health Team – Tameside Council, Tameside Community Safety Partnership, Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, Greater Manchester Police, Youth Justice, Greater Manchester Probation Service, Tameside Adult Safeguarding, Tameside Childrens' Services.

## Introduction

This strategic needs assessment (SNA) seeks to provide an understanding to Tameside Council, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), probation services, youth offending services, Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (GM ICB), partners and public about serious violence and re-offending violence in Tameside, and the prevalence of the underlying risk factors of serious violence.

The World Health Organization defines serious violence as 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).

In April 2018, the government published its Serious Violence Strategy in response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide across England. The strategy called for local partners to work together across different sectors including the police, local authorities, health services and the voluntary sector to adopt a multi-agency approach to reduce serious violence in their area.

The government announced in December 2019 that it would bring forward legislation to create a new Serious Violence Duty. This followed a consultation on the new legal duty. Section 6(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which sets out the strategies that responsible authorities must formulate and implement, has also been amended to explicitly include serious violence.

In May 2023 Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (GM VRU) published the Greater Manchester wide Strategic Needs Assessment for Violence (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23). This outlined the extensive research and collation of consultations, information and best practice as to what is happening around violence within Greater Manchester. The key findings and recommendations from the GM VRU needs assessment, have been utilised and reflected in this document, with an in depth review of evidence, information and services within the Tameside area.

The recommendations in this SNA will inform a Serious Violence Strategy for Tameside which will include the actions required across all specified authorities to meet the Serious Violence Duty.

A public health approach to violence prevention and reduction underpins this needs assessment, taking into consideration best practice and evidence for population-based prevention approaches.

There is growing evidence to show that violence can be prevented. The association between early exposure to violence and major causes of adulthood mortality has been long recognised. More recent evidence documents the biology of violence, demonstrating that traumatic stress experienced in response to violence may impair brain architecture, immune status, metabolic systems, and inflammatory responses. Early experiences of violence may present lasting damage at the basic level of nervous, endocrine and immune systems, and can even influence genetic alterations of DNA (Hoeffler, 2014). In addition to death, physical injury and disability, violence can lead to stress that impairs the development of the nervous system and immune system; thereby leading to ill-health in later years. People who are exposed to violence are at increased risk of a wide range of immediate and lifelong behavioural, physical and mental health problems, including being a victim and/or perpetrator of further violence. Violence can also undermine the social and economic development of whole communities and societies (World Health Organization, 2022). Violence is not an inherent part of the human condition. It can be predicted, and it can be prevented. It is also complex. Risk and protective factors all interact. In recent years, data-driven and evidence-based approaches have produced knowledge and strategies that can prevent violence. These include interventions at individual, close relationships, community and societal levels (World Health Organization, 2022). The World Health Organization (2002) produced a report on 'Violence and Health' which has since its publication seen a growing understanding of risk factors that contribute to violence and how things can be done on an individual, family, community, and within society to prevent it. (WHO, 2002). A 'Public Health approach' is therefore used as it is imperative to look at inequalities when addressing violence.

Unlike other forms of crime, young men are the most likely to be victims of serious violence. Although there are more White victims overall, people of Black and Asian ethnic origin are disproportionately impacted by serious violence. (Home Office, 2020). In relation to offenders/perpetrators of serious violence (Coleman, 2016) explored characteristics and found the majority of evidence indicates that male offenders perpetrate the majority of serious violence crime, but that female offending is increasing. This needs assessment further discusses the breakdown of serious violence crime type by gender and for the majority of categories, nearly ¾ of offenders in Tameside are male.

As the country overall has seen an increase in sharp object crime (knife crime) and other forms of serious violence, this needs assessment will outline the position Tameside is in and provide key recommendations for areas to focus resources, contained within the backdrop of the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit Serious Violence Needs Assessment.

Across England and Wales, 680 people were victims of homicide in the year ending March 2022. In Greater Manchester there were 55 homicides over the same time period (Office for National Statistics, 2023). Of the 55 homicides in Greater Manchester; 4 were within Tameside, although there were 11,448 violence against the person crimes committed across Tameside.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are situations which lead to a higher risk of children and young people experiencing damaging impacts on health, or other social outcomes, across their lives and perpetuate a cycle of intergenerational inequality, which is linked to Serious Violence. What happens during pregnancy and early years influences physical, cognitive, and emotional development in childhood and may affect health and wellbeing outcomes in later life. A focus on early years is important in a preventative, public health approach, to improve the health of the whole population in the longer-term.

Preventing violence is broader than focusing on the violence alone. It is about ensuring that there is good emotional wellbeing, resilient communities, engagement and cohesion, as well as good employment, good education and supportive and nurturing environments to flourish. There have been many studies that have provided evidence to determine what our risk and protective factors are. Understanding these factors means we can develop and adopt new public health-based approaches to tackling violence. Such approaches focus on stopping violence occurring in the first place by reducing known risk factors and promoting the known protective factors throughout the life course. It should be noted that these factors are correlated indicators and not causal factors.

This SNA will explore the wider risk factors and protective factors for preventing and reducing serious violence in the context of the types of violence and risk factors in Tameside, as well as considering the programmes and interventions already in place to try to address this. The SNA provides a series of key findings and recommendations for Tameside.

## Aims and Objectives

The aim of this strategic needs assessment (SNA) is to provide an overview to the specified authorities, communities and partners across Tameside about our knowledge and understanding of serious violence within the borough and the risk and protective factors for why violence occurs.

A public health approach to violence prevention and reduction underpins this SNA. It considers what the data tells us, listens to the voice of local people and communities through surveys and case studies, assesses the published evidence, and gathers good practice from other areas and within Tameside.

Our objectives for this strategic needs assessment are to:

1. Understand what a public health approach to violence prevention means and how it can be applied in practice.
2. Set out our evidence-base of violence across Tameside, considering the prevalence and incidence of the various types of violence by person, place, and over time, taking a life-course approach.
3. Set out our evidence-base of our community assets and where there are opportunities to enhance and strengthen further.
4. Determine the gaps in our knowledge and understanding and make recommendations for future action thereby building violence prevention capacity at a local level and contribute to the wider combined authority level.

# Key Findings

The Serious Violence Duty in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 includes a requirement for local partnerships to complete a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to understand how violence is affecting their communities and to help them develop a response strategy. (Department of Health & Social Care, Home Office and Public Health England, 2021)



Below is a summary of the key findings arising from the data and insights examined throughout this Serious Violence Needs Assessment.

Serious violence and its impact on wider society and across the life course is significant. There are adverse impacts at an individual, community, and borough-wide level. The scale of the challenges around serious violence and the complex nature of the factors which influence it mean that a whole system approach is required to address the harms of serious violence in the longer term.

- Deprivation is a close correlator to crime, with areas of higher overall deprivation experiencing higher levels of crime and violent crime. Tameside ranks overall as 28<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority out of 317 local authorities in England. Tameside also has entrenched levels of poverty and a higher proportion of those in low-income jobs than in Greater Manchester.
- High levels of poverty in Tameside disproportionately affect lone-parent families, who are more likely to be young women with children. The proportion of lone-parent families is growing in Tameside, and this is associated with greater prevalence of ACEs among children. This has been identified as a risk factor to the child(ren) of becoming a victim and/or perpetrator of violence.
- Wider determinants of health that contribute to serious violence see worse outcomes in Tameside when compared to regional and national averages with examples including proportion of lone parent households; median incomes; proportion of young people not in education employment or training (NEETs); educational attainment.
- Tameside has a higher proportion of the population who live with a disability; with persons with a disability having an increased risk of becoming a victim of a violent crime.
- Nationally there is little evidence of a link between ethnicity and being either a victim or committing a serious violent offence. However, in Tameside, across all ages, there is an observed over-representation of people from ethnic minority communities being both victims and perpetrators of violent crime. This is particularly the case for young people from ethnic minority communities.
- Since 2014, Tameside has seen increases in all reported violent crimes and the trend continues to increase. Similarly the same increases have been seen across Greater Manchester and nationally also. This also correlates with the number of attendances to hospital for violence related injuries.
- The density of premises licensed to sell alcohol within Tameside is greater than both the North West and England averages, with more dense concentrations of licensed premises in the most deprived parts of the borough. These are predominantly made up of off license premises, associated with increased availability of low-price alcohol and increased alcohol harms. The majority of violent crime against an individual correlates with the hours in the day when licensed premises are open, and when alcohol can be purchased.
- 77% of the current violent offender caseload within Tameside Probation service report a current or previous substance misuse issue, inclusive of drugs and alcohol.
- There has been a gradual increase in the proportion of all violent crimes committed by reoffenders in recent years, though with some recent signs of a reduction.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are a large contributing factor to serious violence and interventions to reduce ACEs experienced by children in Tameside is key to a reduction in the long-term prevalence of serious violence.
- Educational attainment in Tameside is significantly below the England average and is a key protective factor to serious violence if attainment is improved.
- Tameside has a persistently higher rate of permanent and fixed term exclusions from school compared to statistical neighbours and regionally. Those pupils who are permanently excluded face increased risk of being cautioned or sentenced for committing an offence.

- The proportion of young persons who are classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or status not known is above the Greater Manchester, North West and England averages.
- The types of offence noted by Tameside's Youth Justice Service have changed overtime with more serious violence offences being committed.
- Domestic abuse and high-risk domestic abuse have a high prevalence in Tameside, with a high proportion of violent crime, particularly knife crime in Tameside being associated with domestic abuse.
- Tameside is showing slight improvements in regard to the rate of self-directed violence, inclusive of self-harm and suicides, however the rate of self-harm in Tameside remains significantly worse than the national average.
- Personal robbery is lower in Tameside compared to usual patterns observed in areas with similar levels of deprivation, with motivations for robbery crimes often being around economic stress and poverty. While Tameside is not an adverse outlier for personal robbery crimes involving violence, young males are most likely to be both the victims and perpetrators of these offences. There is a concentration of these offences in Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre and a number of repeat offenders with risk factors linked to domestic abuse, substance misuse and involvement with children's social care.
- Possession of weapons offences are high in Tameside when compared across the Greater Manchester average and more work is required to understand why this is the case, as the proportion of weapons offences which are knife crimes is lower than would be expected. Some patterns within this highlight that a high proportion of recorded knife crime in Tameside is linked to domestic abuse incidents; and that for a large proportion of weapons offences, these are associated with younger males.
- Large increases in reported adult safeguarding concerns have been seen in recent years (Section 42). Feedback from local services indicate that this may be linked to residents who face multi-disadvantage, who experience multiple complex health and care issues who have a number of vulnerabilities, and a high proportion are involved in the criminal justice system.
- The majority of modern slavery incidents in Tameside involve child criminal exploitation (56%) and drug transportation/storage/supply (67%) with some seasonal peaks in activity (July). Children and young people living in areas with higher socioeconomic deprivation are at greater risk of modern slavery and targeting by adult offenders, however it should be noted that the number of these recorded crimes is relatively lower in Tameside compared to other areas.
- Violent crime is most prevalent around Town Centre locations including Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre, Stalybridge Town Centre, Hyde Town Centre and Hattersley Town Centre.
- Young males (under 16 years of age) are over-represented in a number of violent crime measures both as victims and perpetrators.

# Demographics

“...violence is higher in deprived or unequal populations, varies considerably between populations, and can persist in a community despite economic improvement.”

(Benoît de Courson, 2023).

## Definitions

The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy from 2018 defined serious violence as, “specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as gangs and county lines drug dealing. It also includes emerging crime threats faced in some areas of the county such as the use of corrosive substances as a weapon.” (Home Office, 2018).

Within the Serious Violence Duty (Home Office, 2022) there was a recognition of broadening the definition of violence in order to enable a multi-agency, public health approach to tackling and preventing serious violence. The duty states, “Specified authorities will need to work together to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in their areas as far as possible”. Therefore, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (the PCSC Act) does not define serious violence for the purposes of the Duty 2022.

In determining what amounts to serious violence in their local area, the specified authorities must consider the following factors listed in Section 13 (6) of the PCSC Act:

- A. the maximum penalty which could be imposed for any offence involved in the violence.
- B. the impact of the violence on any victim.
- C. the prevalence of the violence in the area
- D. the impact of the violence on the community in the area.

It should be noted that terrorism is not included, and violence is not limited to physical violence against the person.

Specified authorities should consider whether the types of violence included below, amounts to serious violence in their area, in accordance with the factors set out above.

For the purposes of the Duty, violence includes:

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Violence against property
- Threats of violence.

In considering serious violence, the Duty 2022 outlines that there should be a focus on:

- Public space youth violence including homicide.
- Violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.

The Duty 2022 allows local flexibility when defining serious violence to include (but not limited to):

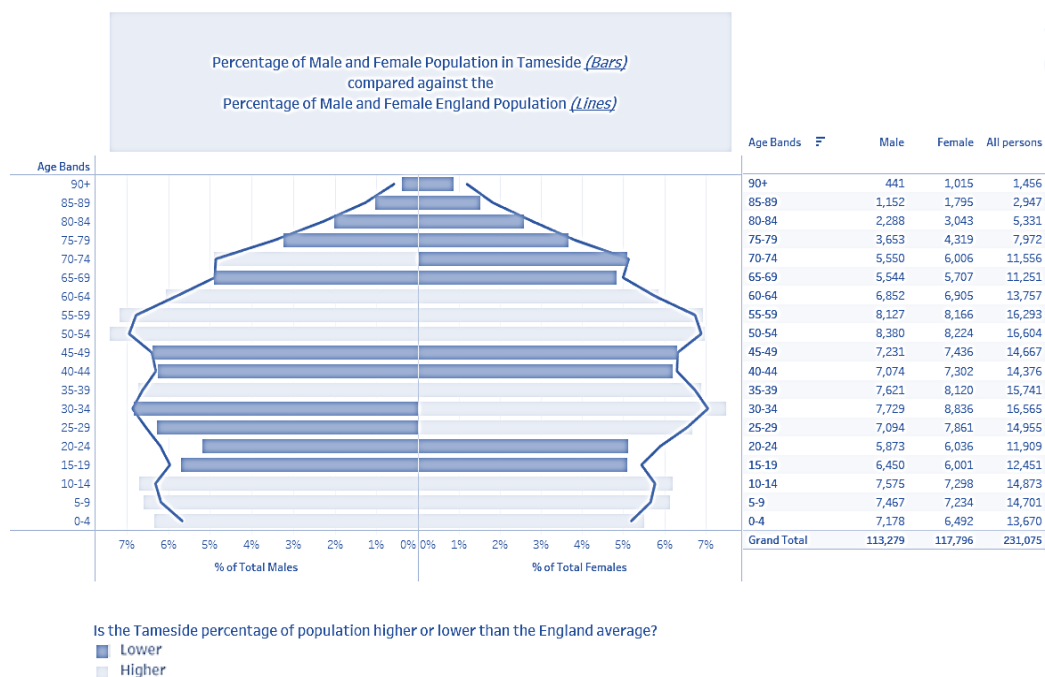
- Alcohol related violence.
- Criminal exploitation.
- Modern slavery.
- Violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse.
- Sexual offences.
- Male and LGBTQ+ victims.

Serious violence has an adverse impact on lives of victims, families and wider communities and is associated with high economic costs to society. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and specifically Tameside since 2014 with no sustained reductions.

## Population and Key Statistics

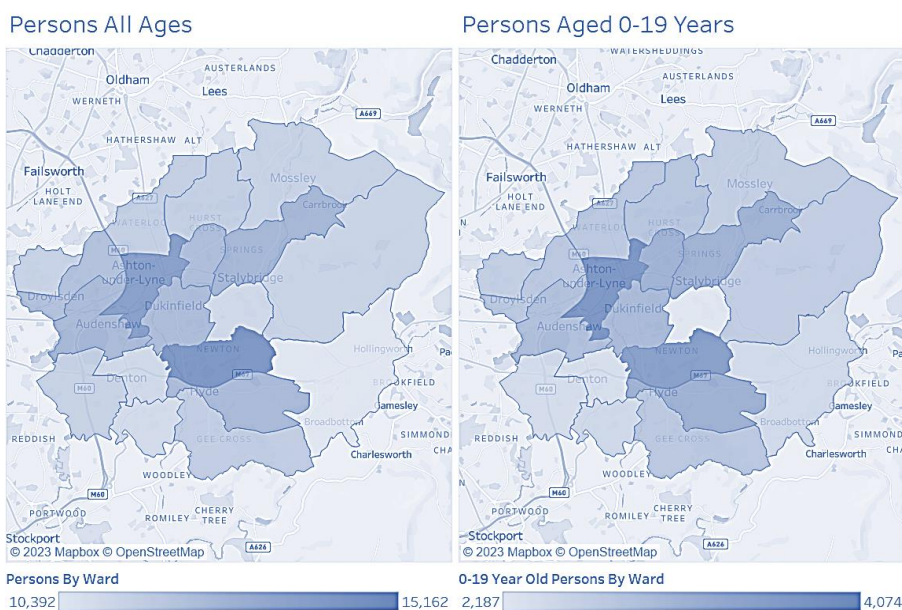
The usual resident population of Tameside was 231,075 on Census Day, 21st March 2021. Overall, there were 113,276 men (49% of the overall population) and 117,797 women (51%) living in Tameside in 2021.

**Figure 1 - Tameside Population Pyramid – Split by Gender Census 2021**



While there has been a decline in birth rates since the last census, Tameside still has a higher percentage of the population between the ages of 0-14, than the national average.

**Figure 2 - Tameside Population by Ward – Young Persons compared to All Ages**



Tameside saw the North West's third-largest percentage rise in the proportion of lone-parent households (from 12.8% in 2011 to 13.8% in 2021). Lone-parent households are more likely to experience financial challenges increasing the risk of poverty, which has an impact on life chances and development. The household adversity associated with poverty can increase the risk of a child's likelihood of adverse childhood experiences (ACE). (UCL Institute of Health Equity, 2015), which are risk factors for violence.

Life expectancy (LE) at birth in Tameside remains lower for males (76.9 years) than for females (80.1 years). While this reflects the national trend, LE in Tameside continues to be statistically significantly worse than for England.

Inequalities in life expectancy for males and females in Tameside have increased in recent years. Males can expect to live 9.6 years less and females 9.2 years less in our most deprived Lower Super Output Areas

(LSOA), compared with the least deprived LSOA's. This indicates that broad conditions of deprivation are continuing to have an adverse impact on long term health outcomes and life expectancy in Tameside.

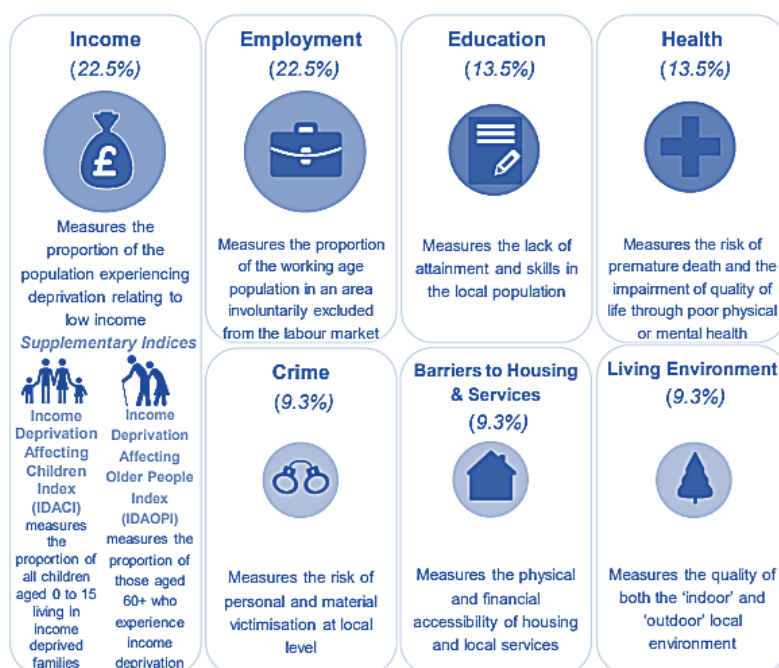
Improvements in life expectancy at age 65 years have also slowed over the last decade. In 2018 to 2020, life expectancy at age 65 years in the UK is 18.5 years for males and 21.0 years for females - for Tameside it is 16.8 years for males and 18.6 years for females. Tameside currently has the lowest life expectancy for females at age 65 in England. For males, Tameside has the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest life expectancy at age 65. Therefore in respect of both males and females, this contributes to the overall inequalities faced within Tameside and reflects poorer health outcomes that older residents experience in Tameside, compared to other areas.

## Deprivation

Deprivation is a close correlator to crime – higher levels of crime are reported in areas with higher levels of deprivation. There is extensive international and local research indicating that almost all social challenges, from violent crime to poverty to ill health, follow a distinct social gradient and disproportionately affect residents of the most deprived areas. We know from the evidence that the prevalence of violence is higher in more disadvantaged areas and that those who live in the most disadvantaged areas suffer the greatest from the impact of violence. (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23).

Deprived communities feel the greatest impact of violence (Benoît de Courson, 2023). The English Government use different domains of social determinants to monitor deprivation. These domains are collectively used to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2019). Below is a diagram of the different domains and how they are weighted within the index of multiple deprivation.

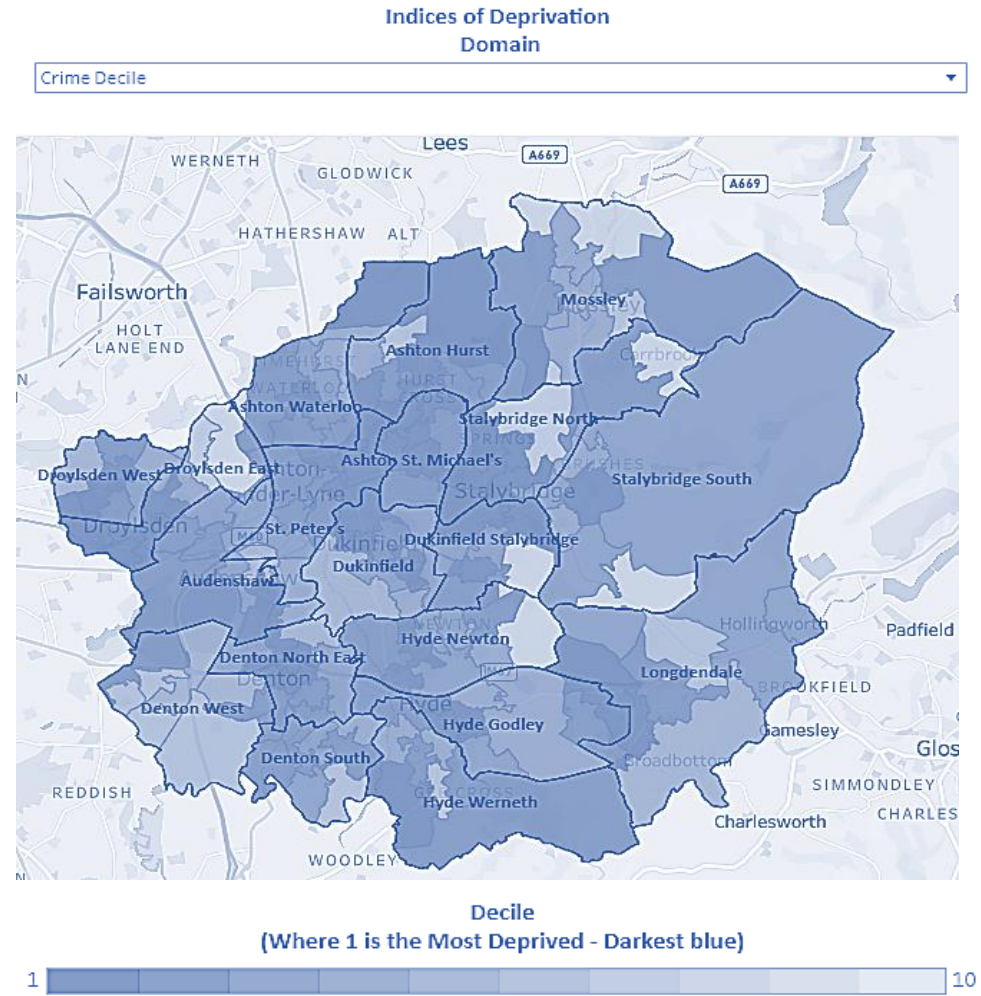
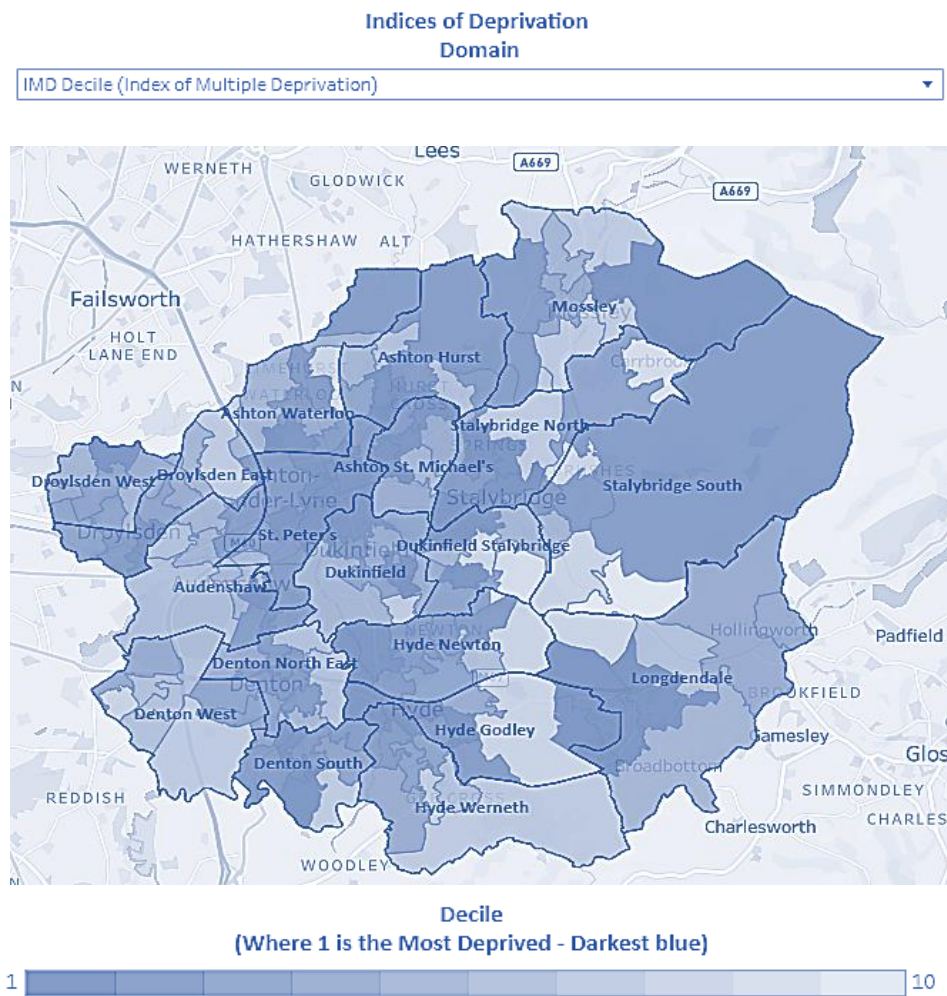
Figure 3 - Index of Multiple Deprivation Domains



The 7 domains include income, employment, education, housing and crime, and are important to understand when we discuss risk and protective factors for serious violence later in the needs assessment.

Tameside ranks overall as the 28<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority out of 317 local authorities in England. Additionally, as displayed on the index of multiple deprivation map below, there is widespread deprivation across the borough with the highest deprivation centered on town centres such as Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Hyde – with Ashton-under-Lyne having the greatest levels of deprivation (darkest blue = more deprived). This additionally correlates to where Tameside's highest recorded crime incidence takes place, displayed on crime decile map below. The Figures below show the similar distribution of overall deprivation levels and crime across Tameside.

Figure 4 - Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 and Crime Decile Map of Tameside



Tameside also has entrenched levels of poverty and a higher proportion of those in low-income jobs than in Greater Manchester. Although not pictured alongside these maps, the levels of those in poverty correlate closely to the most deprived parts of the borough, using the IMD ranking.

# Serious Violence Within Tameside - Epidemiology & Intelligence

‘Violence is 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)



## Public Health Approach

Violence is a major public health problem, affecting many people's lives through death, injury and harmful effects on neurological, cardiovascular, immune and other biological systems. Victims and perpetrators of violence have higher prevalence of adverse childhood experiences. They often show high-risk behaviours such as unsafe sex, harmful alcohol and drug use and smoking, all of which contribute to lifelong ill health and premature mortality (WHO, 2022). Violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing and is strongly related to other socioeconomic inequalities. The most deprived fifth of areas in England have hospital admission rates for violence five times higher than those of the most affluent fifth. Violence affects individuals and families through to communities and our wider society. The financial impact of violence cannot be under-estimated and has a significant impact on our health services, criminal justice system and wider economy (Mark A Bellis et al, 2014).

Because of its complexity, the biggest opportunity to reduce and prevent violence is to have a whole system approach that is led by our communities. The (World Health Organization, 2023) defines a public health approach to reducing 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 a perpetrator of violence. By definition, public health aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. Programmes for primary prevention of violence based on the public health approach are designed to expose a broad segment of a population to prevention measures and to reduce and prevent violence at a population-level'.

## Risk & Protective Factors

The World Health Organization describes the risk and protective factors for serious violence across three broad levels: individual factors, factors within close relationships and those within communities and wider society. Through the Social Ecological Model the WHO outline the protective and risk factors which contribute to serious violence (WHO, 2022).

Figure 5 – Risk and Protective Factors Regarding Serious Violence

Figure 5a - Risk Factors Regarding Serious Violence (WHO, 2022)

### Social ecological model for understanding and preventing violence

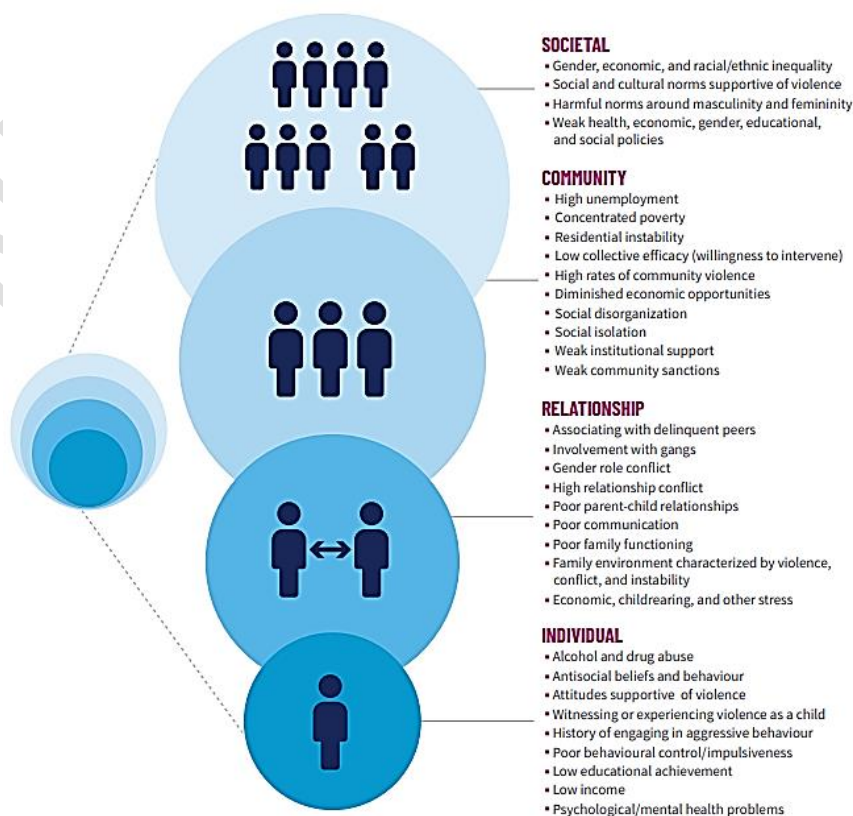
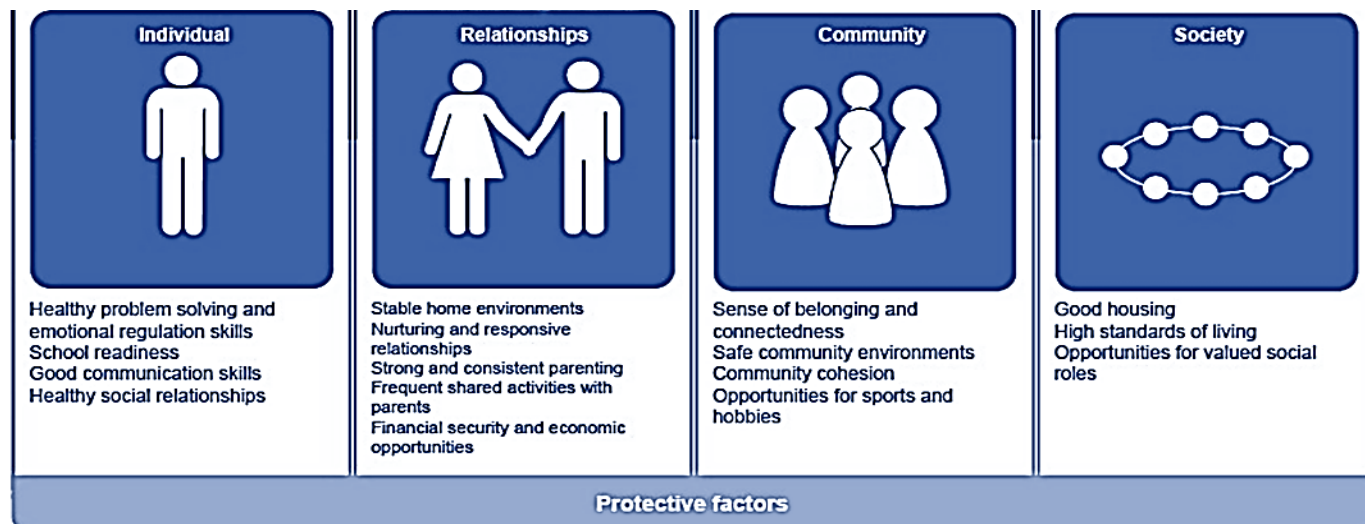


Figure 5b - Protective Factors Regarding Serious Violence (Public Health England, 2019)



Protective factors for serious violence are often linked to alleviating the associated risk factors (eg. The risk factor of homelessness can be tackled via the protective factor of good housing provision). Protective factors can mitigate or severely reduce the likelihood of someone committing a serious violent offence. They can also act as a buffer to risk factors, with a positive cumulative effect and are integral to a strength or asset-based approach to violence reduction.

Public Health England also produced an overview of the factors contributing to violence, but also included the range of protective factors that prevent and reduce violence and its impact. Below are the protective factors included across the individual, relationships, community, and societal levels.

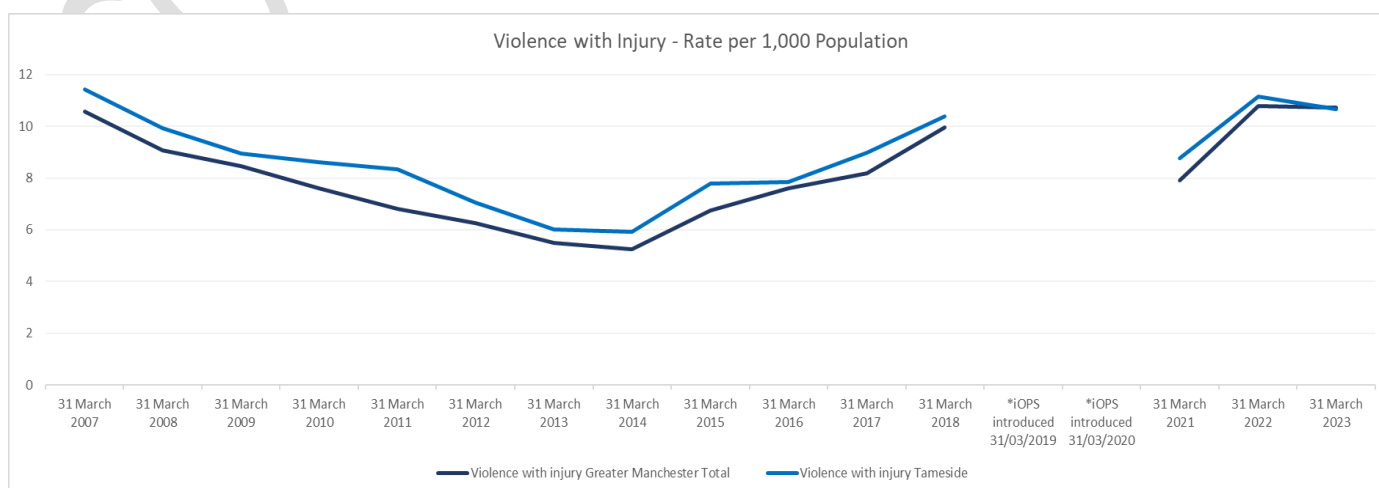
The later chapters of this SNA examine risk and protective factors of serious violence across Tameside throughout the life-course in further detail.

### Violence and Crimes Against the Person

The number of overall reported crime nationally has fallen over the last 20 years, however since the mid-2010s there have been steep increases in police recorded serious violence including: homicide, robbery, violence with injury and violence involving sharp objects across England and Wales, Greater Manchester, and Tameside. The graphs below highlight Tameside crime data compared to Greater Manchester averages from March 2007 to March 2023. Please note, due to reporting issues with the Integrated Operational Police System (iOPS) during 2019 and 2020, there are some gaps in the data below.

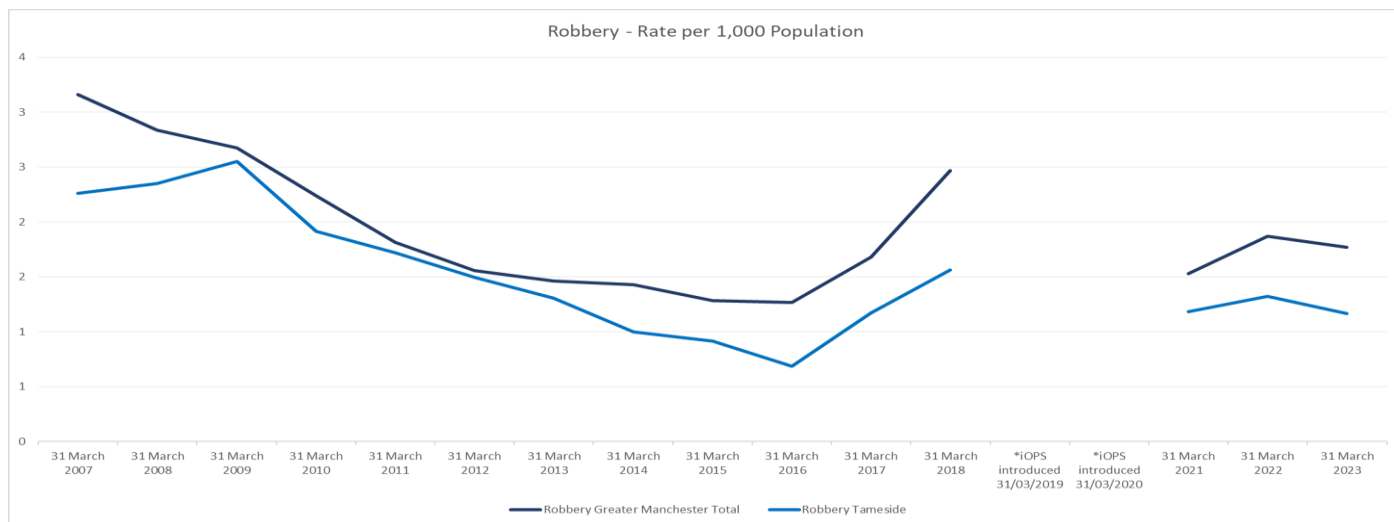
Figure 6 - Crimes Against the Person in Tameside and Greater Manchester 2007-2023 – Rate of Police Reported Offences per 1,000 Population (Office for National Statistics, 2023)

Figure 6a - Violence with Injury



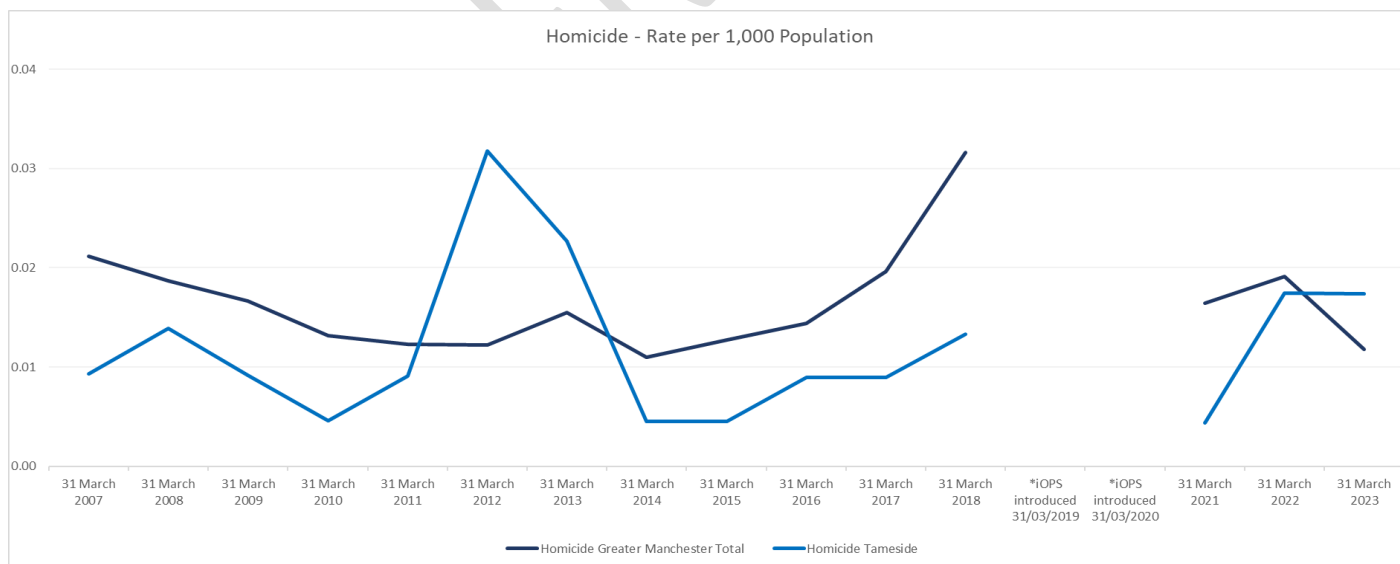
From the lowest point in 2014, there was an increase in the amount of violence with injury crimes both within Tameside and at a Greater Manchester level. Tameside has recorded a rate higher than the Greater Manchester average through the entire period, with the data in the graph above showing ongoing increases in violence with injury in Tameside up to 2022 (with a slight reduction in 2023). While not displayed on the graph, there is a clear seasonal peak of violence with injury incidents in the summer with higher incidence in June, July and August – when looking at quarterly data.

**Figure 6b - Robbery**



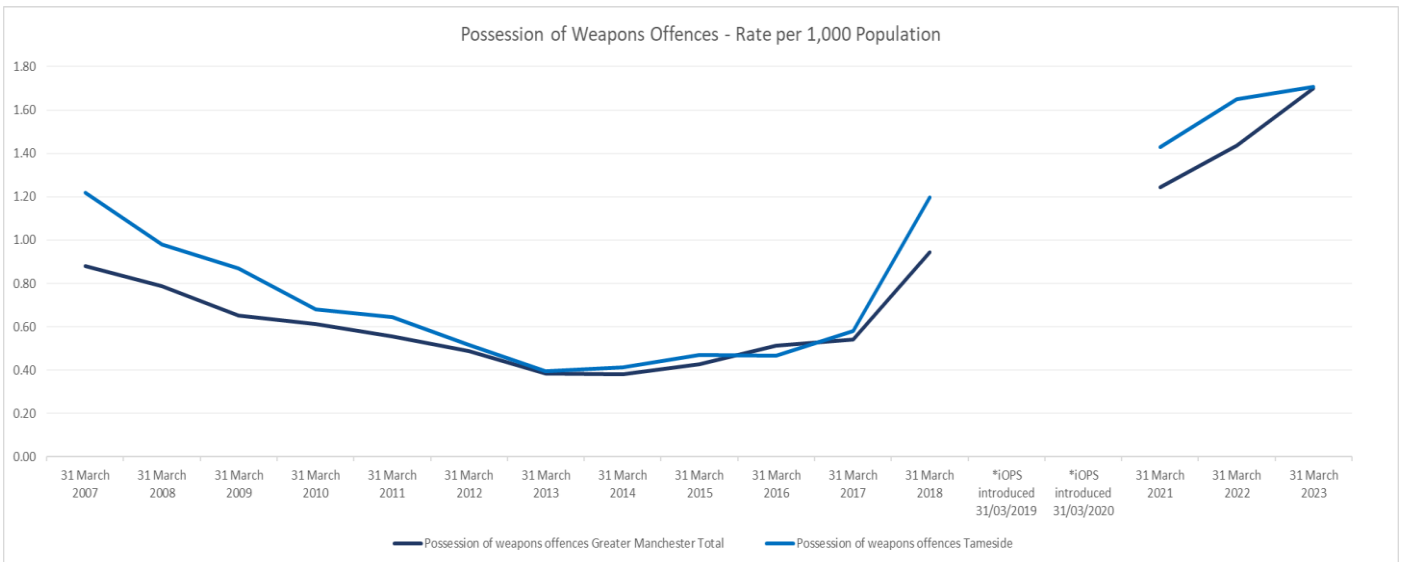
Tameside has overall had lower incidence of robbery when compared with the Greater Manchester average. Although there has been an increase in incidence since the lowest point in 2016, more recent data indicates lower levels of robbery crime across both Greater Manchester and Tameside. The latest data shows further reductions, particularly in Tameside. Further detail around risk factors associated with these crimes can be found in the chapter on [Interpersonal Violence](#).

**Figure 6c - Homicide**



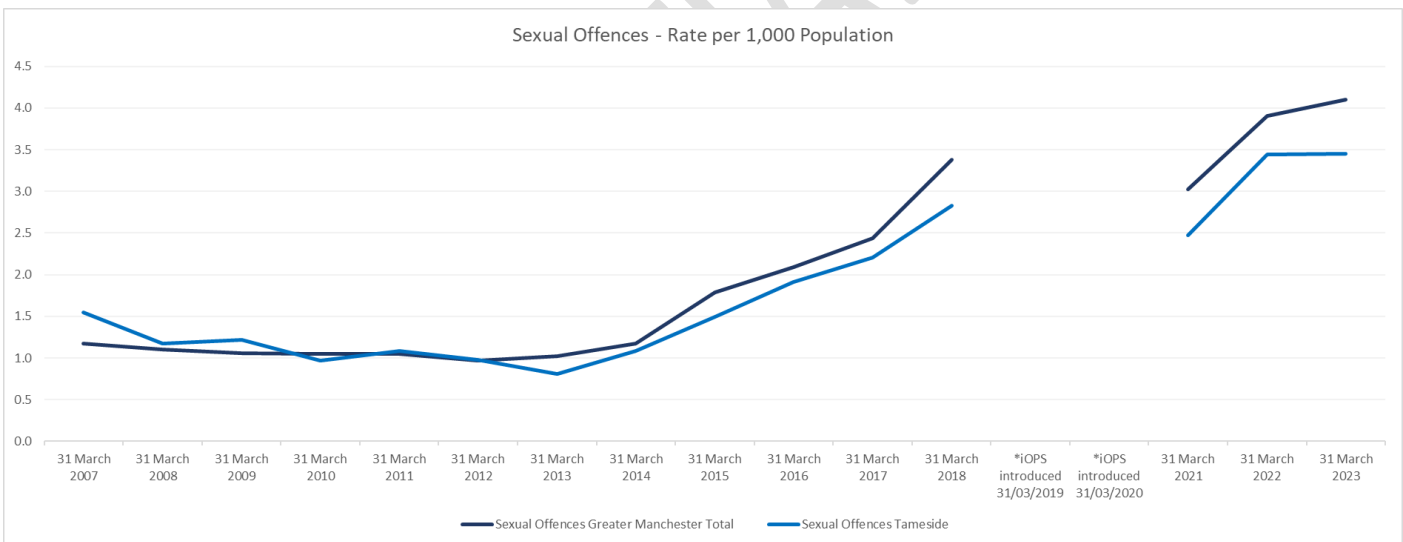
Due to the relatively low numbers of homicide cases in Tameside, there can be wide year-on-year variation in the homicide rate, demonstrated by the patterns seen above. Despite the wide variation, overall the Tameside trend broadly reflects the Greater Manchester average, though the recent plateau bringing the rate above the GM average in 2023 should continue to be monitored.

**Figure 6d - Possession of Weapons**



Tameside has overall had a higher incidence of possession of weapons offences when compared with the Greater Manchester average. Additionally since the lowest point in 2013, the rate in Tameside has been rising at a faster rate than the Greater Manchester average, though the gap has closed in the most recent data for 2023. This data indicates that weapons offences in Tameside have increased substantially in recent years and remain at consistently high levels.

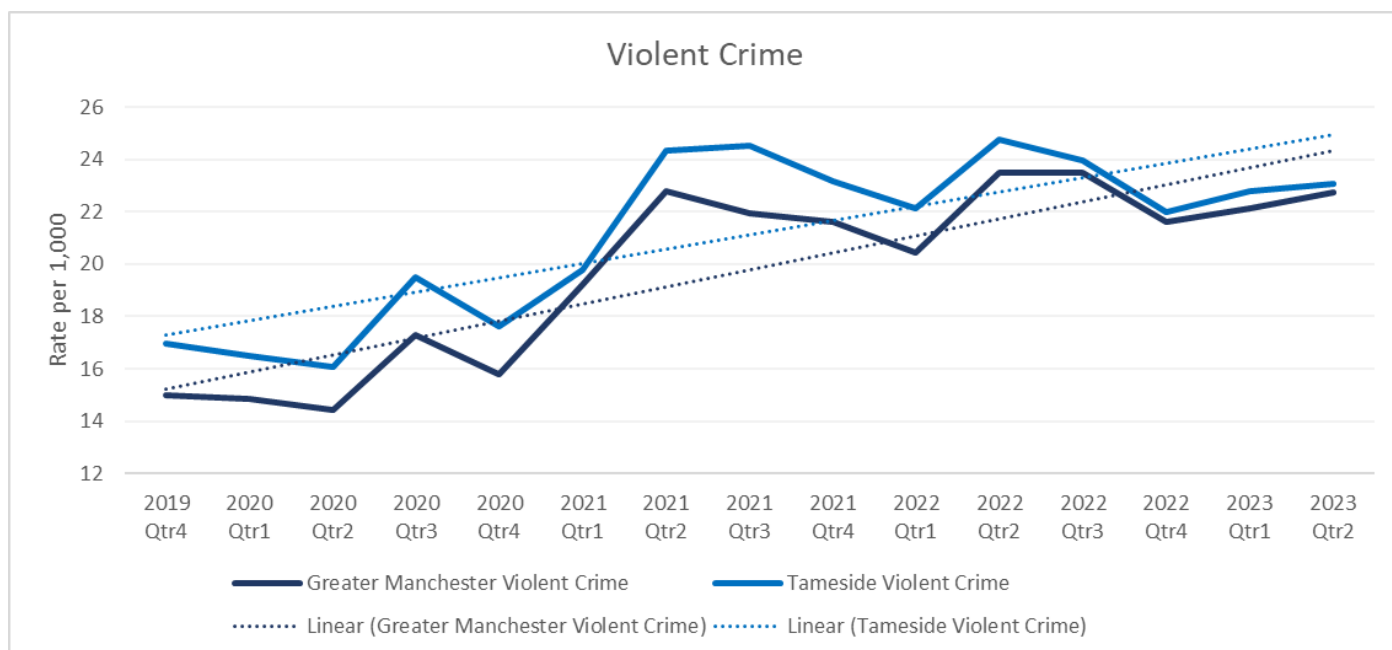
**Figure 6e - Sexual Offences**



Since the lowest point in 2013, Tameside has followed the Greater Manchester trend of ongoing increases in relation to sexual offences, although Tameside’s rates have seen a more recent plateau and continue to be lower than the Greater Manchester average.

Overall since 2017 there has been an increase of all police reported crimes against the person for both Greater Manchester and Tameside. The most notable increases are sexual crimes and possession of weapon offences.

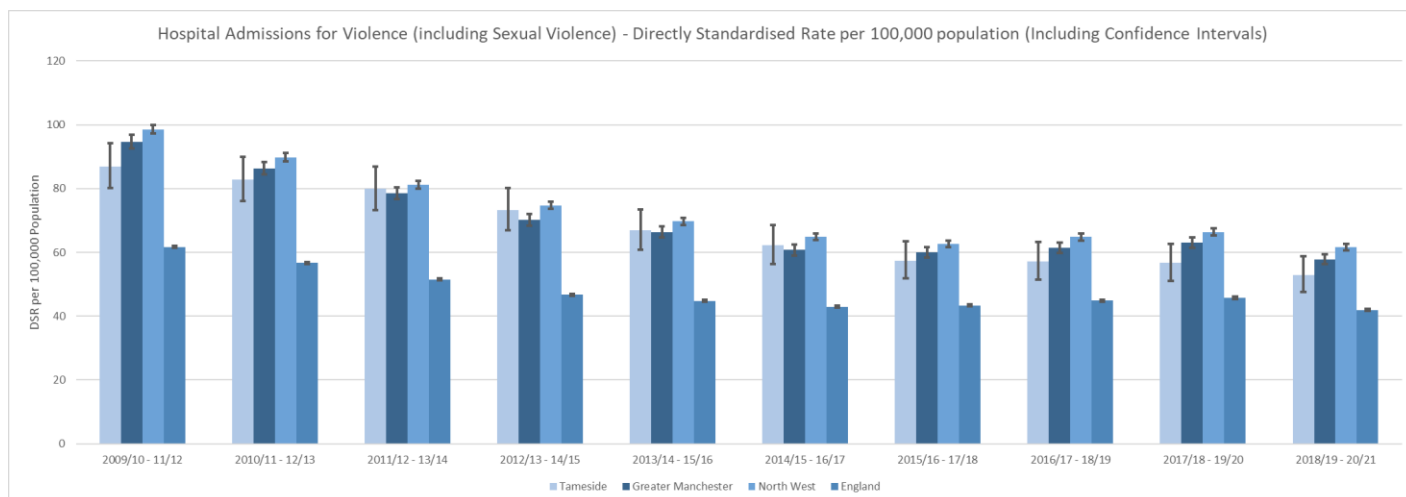
Figure 6f - Violent Crimes in Tameside and Greater Manchester Qtr 1 2019- Qtr 2 2023



	Rate per 1,000	
	Greater Manchester Violent Crime	Tameside Violent Crime
2019 Qtr4	14.99	16.95
2020 Qtr1	14.85	16.48
2020 Qtr2	14.41	16.05
2020 Qtr3	17.31	19.48
2020 Qtr4	15.79	17.61
2021 Qtr1	19.22	19.80
2021 Qtr2	22.77	24.33
2021 Qtr3	21.95	24.51
2021 Qtr4	21.61	23.17
2022 Qtr1	20.42	22.13
2022 Qtr2	23.48	24.74
2022 Qtr3	23.48	23.94
2022 Qtr4	21.59	22.00
2023 Qtr1	22.13	22.79
2023 Qtr2	22.73	23.05

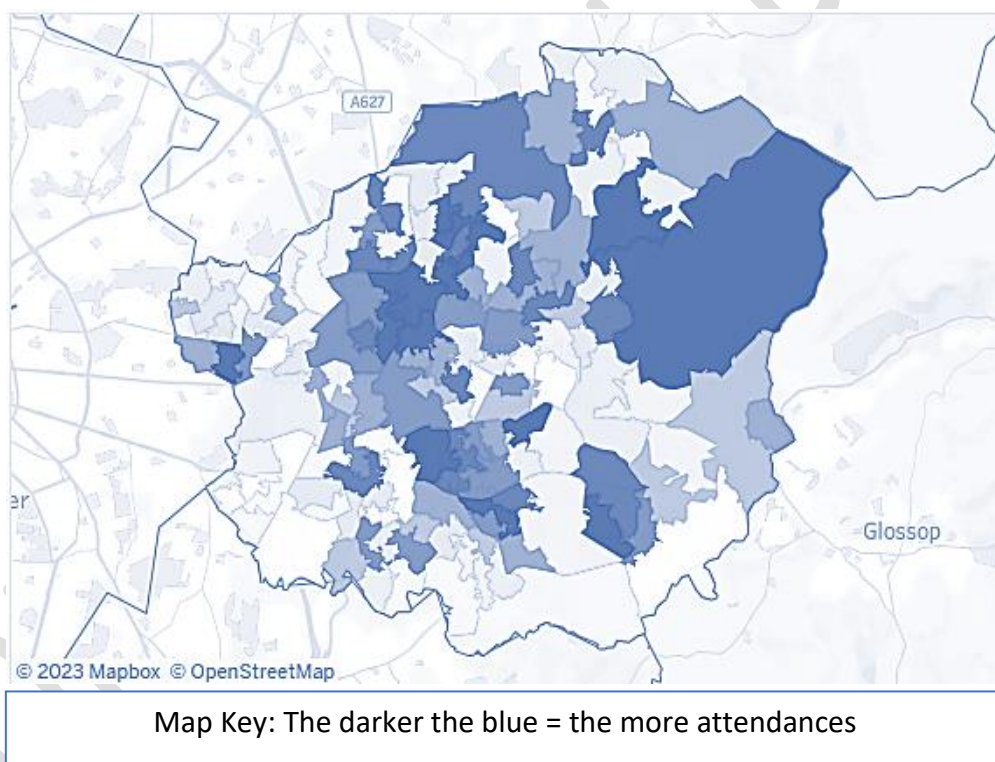
As highlighted above the trend between 2019-2023 has been an increase in violent crime both across Greater Manchester and within Tameside. Throughout this period, the rate of violent crime in Tameside has been consistently higher than the Greater Manchester average. Among the violent crime reported in Tameside, there were a range of common associated factors involved in these crimes, most notably domestic abuse and alcohol, followed by drugs and then weapons including knives, which has seen recent increases (Greater Manchester Police, 2022). This is discussed further in the chapter on [Interpersonal Violence](#). There is a wide body of evidence that violent crime, if often under-reported, and changes to reporting practices can skew data trends. More acute injury from violent crime is often captured via healthcare data such as hospital admissions and ambulance data.

**Figure 7 - Violent Crime Hospital Admissions** (Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023)



Whilst over time the rate of admissions for violent crime have reduced, Tameside still has significantly higher rates than the England average, although it is similar to both the Greater Manchester and North West averages.

**Figure 8 - A&E Attendance for Assault by Victim’s Residence** (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23)



Between 2019-2023 there was an average of 2 attendances per day of Tameside residents to accident and emergency (A&E) due to an assault. (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2023) data dashboard outlines that of these A&E attendances due to assaults, over 54% were committed within a domestic setting and the peak age of a victim being assaulted was between the ages of 20-24. During the same period from 2019-2023 10% of all assaults resulting in an A&E attendance were involving a knife or sharp object. Although below the Greater Manchester average, the level of assaults with a sharp object in Tameside has been increasing.

Upon analysis of assault data by the smaller geography of lower super output areas (LSOA) in Tameside, there is an observed strong correlation between crime and deprivation (as discussed above). The impact and

the prevalence of incidents of violence are greatest within Tameside's most deprived areas. These areas also tend to be Tameside's highest footfall areas with Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre, Hyde Town Centre, Salybridge Town Centre and Hattersley Town Centre having the highest recorded assaults and crime.

### Protected Characteristics and Violence

According to the Census 2021, 82.32% (190,305) of Tameside residents described themselves as White British (including English, Welsh, Scottish, and Northern Irish), 85.5% (197,776) of residents identified with any White ethnic group. In total 17.6% of Tameside residents identify they are from an ethnic minority community. This includes White Other, Gypsy, Roma and White Irish ethnic groups. This is important from a violence prevention perspective. We know from the evidence that ethnicity itself is not a risk factor for violence and that generally there is very little, if any, relationship between ethnic category and involvement in violent crime, drug use, gang involvement, property offences and antisocial behaviour (Clifford Stott et al, 2021). However according to the Crime Survey in England (UK Government, 2021), men from Mixed ethnic backgrounds (21%) were more likely to be victims of crime than men from any other ethnic group for the 3 years from April 2017 to March 2020. In addition Asian people aged 75 and over (11%) were more likely to be a victim of crime than White people aged 75 and over (6%). As for perpetrators of violence in the youth justice data detailed later within this document, a higher proportion of perpetrators are from an ethnic minority background.

In terms of religion, 47.8% of Tameside's residents consider themselves Christian, with the next largest group being Muslim (7.3%). Just over a third of residents (38%) did not indicate any religious affiliation. There is a broad range of different religious identities within each ward across the borough. Religion is important to monitor as according to the Crime Survey it is estimated that 0.1% of adults in England are subject to a religious motivated crime (Office of National Statistics, 2020).

From the Census 2021, just under 20% of the overall Tameside population identified as having a disability. In comparison this is higher than in Greater Manchester (18%) or in England (17%). There is a variation in the prevalence of disability across different wards in Tameside. Individuals with disabilities face challenges in terms of discrimination, income deprivation and poverty, and higher demands for social care. It is important to understand levels of disability across our population in relation to violence because people with a disability are at increased risk. In 2019, the Crime Survey for England and Wales found that almost 1 in 4 (23.1%) disabled adults experienced crime compared with 1 in 5 (20.7%) non-disabled adults.

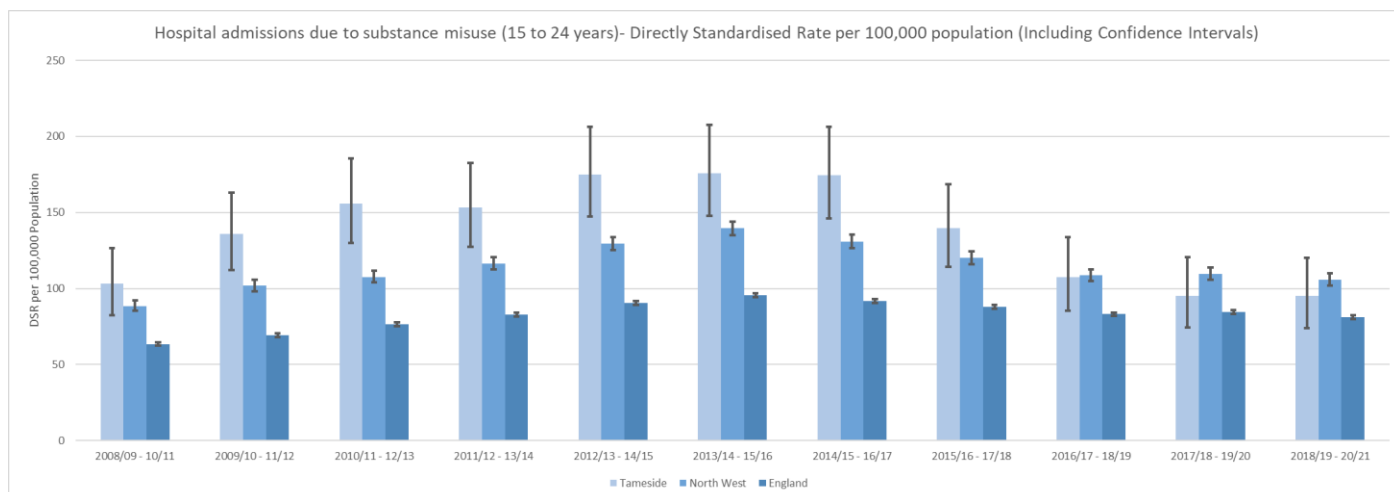
0.5% of people in Tameside identify as either non-binary, their gender identity different from sex registered at birth or other gender identities. 3.3% identify from any other sexual preference group other than heterosexual. According to research conducted by Stonewall, One in five LGBT people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months and 4 in 4 of these incidents go unreported to the police (Stonewall, 2017).

Monitoring protected characteristics is important as those who fall within a minority group are subject to higher rates of serious violence and are more likely to become victims (Home Office, 2018).

### Violence Involving Substances, inclusive of Drugs and Alcohol

Issues with drugs and alcohol are identified throughout this SNA as risk factors contributing to serious violence in Tameside. Wider evidence also suggests that health harming behaviours such as drug use are more common among children and young people who had either experienced or committed violence (Youth Endowment Fund, 2022). Rates of drug use, taken from Crest Advisory two-year study around the drivers of Serious Violence; were significantly higher among both victims and perpetrators of violence, particularly the use of cannabis. 6% of respondents in the study said they had used cannabis within the last 12 months and less than 1% reported using another illegal drug. Gang membership was less common, but a majority of those who reported being part of a gang were also victims of violence. When considering drugs as a driver of violence there was also found to be strong correlation between the growing availability of harmful drugs and the rise in serious violence. (Crest Advisory, 2019)

Figure 9a – Hospital Admissions Due to Substance Misuse 15-24 Years

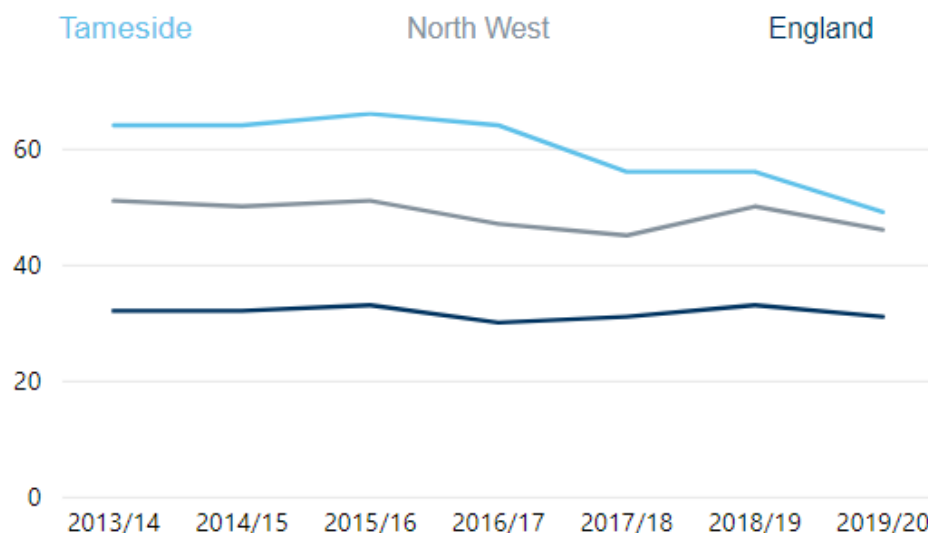


When compared both regionally and nationally Tameside had significantly higher and increasing levels of hospital admissions for substance misuse for young persons' up to 2014/15 – 2016/17 time period. Following this peak in 2014/15 – 2016/17, there have been significant reductions in the rate of admissions among young people in Tameside and the rate in more recent data is statistically similar to both the North West and England averages.

Figure 9b – Hospital Admissions Due to Drug Misuse (All Age) (NHS Digital, 2021)

### Admissions for poisoning by drug misuse

Admissions per 100,000 population by year



Tameside compared both regionally and nationally had significantly higher although reducing levels of hospital admissions for drug misuse. The latest available data in 2020 shows Tameside has a rate of 49 admissions per 100,000 persons, compared to 46 per 100,000 in the North West and 31 per 100,000 in England.



## Availability of Alcohol in Tameside

As alcohol use has been identified both as a wider risk factor for violent crime and also as being directly involved in crime, the availability of alcohol in Tameside is a relevant factor to consider. The density of premises licensed to sell alcohol within Tameside is higher than both the North West and England averages, with more dense concentrations of licensed premises in the most deprived areas in Tameside. These areas also see the highest rates of all crime and serious violence. Additionally the proportion of those who binge drink is significantly higher in Tameside than both regionally and nationally and the volume of alcohol sold through off-trade in Tameside is one of the highest in the country. This is highlighted by the below figure taken from the (Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023) fingertips tool:

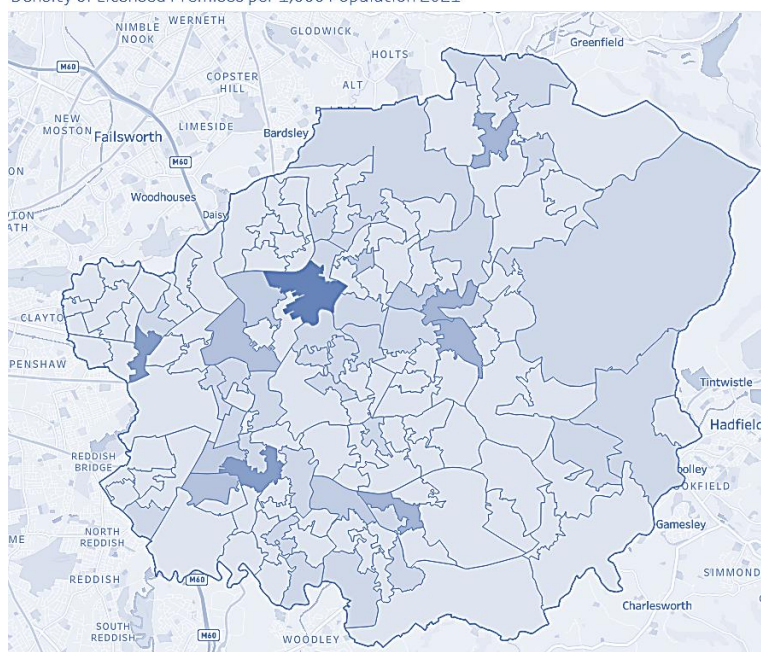
**Figure 10 - Consumption and Availability of Alcohol (Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023)**

Indicator	Period	Tameside			Region	England	England		
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Range	Best
Percentage of adults who abstain from drinking alcohol	2015 - 18	–	-	20.0%	15.0%	16.2%	5.9%	●	51.80%
Percentage of adults binge drinking on heaviest drinking day	2015 - 18	–	-	23.4%	18.5%	15.4%	30.2%	●	4.30%
Percentage of adults drinking over 14 units of alcohol a week	2015 - 18	–	-	26.7%	25.7%	22.8%	41.3%	●	7.90%
Volume of pure alcohol sold through the off-trade: all alcohol sales	2014	–	1,426,449	8.3	6.6	5.5	9.4	●	2.9
Volume of pure alcohol sold through the off-trade: beer sales	2014	–	414,265	2.41	1.89	1.49	2.79	●	0.68
Volume of pure alcohol sold through the off-trade: wine sales	2014	–	506,069	2.94	2.33	2.16	3.96	●	1.3
Volume of pure alcohol sold through the off-trade: spirit sales	2014	–	373,625	2.17	1.74	1.38	2.46	●	0.7
Number of premises licensed to sell alcohol per square kilometre	2021/22	–	634	6.1	1.7*	1.3*	91.9	●	0.3

The below map outlines the density of licensed premises in the borough.

**Figure 11 - Licensed Premises Density 2021**

Density of Licensed Premises per 1,000 Population 2021



Density of Licensed Premises (per 1000 population)

0.00  24.82

Based on per head of a 1,000 population in Tameside there is an average of 2.6 premises per 1,000 population. In order to be able to measure against other areas, rather than being based on locally held data; information on the density of licensed premises per square kilometre is used. In total the Tameside average is 6.1 licensed premises per a squared kilometre (a different measure than per head of the population), which is almost 5 times the England average of 1.3 and 3 times the North West average of 1.7.

The overall pattern is that there is a high availability and consumption of alcohol across Tameside compared to other areas which contributes to alcohol as a risk factor for serious violence. In most reports and data in this area including the College of Policing report by Brennan et al, there is a correlation between the licensed premise density and the increase in

serious violent crimes. These include off license and off premise sales, rather than just pubs and clubs. (Brennan, 2019).

## Prisons and Probation

Nationally of all prisoners housed within prisons, 30% have been convicted of a 'violence against the person' crime (or 19,529 persons), this increases to 37% amongst 18–20-year-olds (755 persons) and 47% of 15–17-year-olds (82 persons). (House of Commons Library, 2022). Below are the key sites relevant for Tameside in relation to Prisons and Probation reach sites. These sites usually house offenders who have been convicted of committing an imprisonable offence within Tameside. As these settings are geographically spread out and all outside of the borough, the in-reach and communication across with relevant support services across Tameside is a key challenge.

[Figure 12 - North West Prisons Map – Greater Manchester Reach Sites Highlighted](#)



[Figure 13 - Greater Manchester Key Prison and Probation Reach Sites](#)

Prison	HMP/PS Region	Operator	Predominant Function	Cohort of Prisoners Held	Designation	Notes	Postal Address	Telephone	Probation Service Region	Expected Resettlement Region
<a href="#">Buckley Hall</a>	Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Group	PSP	Cat C	Trainer	Prison	Category C or lower	Buckley Farm Lane, Rochdale OL12 9DP	(01706) 514 300	Region L - Greater Manchester	National Resource
<a href="#">Forest Bank</a>	Privately Managed Prisons	Sodexo	Reception	Reception & Resettlement	Dual Designated Prison	Category B or lower	Forest Bank, Swinton, Manchester M27 8FB	(0161) 925 7000	Region L - Greater Manchester	Region L - Greater Manchester
<a href="#">Hindley</a>	Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Group	PSP	Cat C	Trainer & Resettlement	Dual Designated Prison	Category C or lower	Gibson Street, Bickershaw, Wigan WN2 5TH	(01942) 663 100	Region L - Greater Manchester	Region L - Greater Manchester Region B - North West National Resource (Trainer)
<a href="#">Manchester</a>	Long Term & High Security	PSP	Cat B	Trainer & Reception	Dual Designated Prison	Category A or lower/ Young Offenders suitable for closed conditions or lower including Restricted Status	Southhall Street, Manchester M60 9AH	(0161) 817 5600	Region L - Greater Manchester	National Resource
<a href="#">Risley</a>	Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Group	PSP	Cat C	Resettlement	Prison	Category C or lower	Warrington Road, Risley, Warrington WA3 6BP	(01925) 733 000	Region L - Greater Manchester	Region L - Greater Manchester
<a href="#">Styal</a>	Women's Estate	PSP	Female	Local & Resettlement	Dual Designated Prison	Female prisoners suitable for closed conditions or lower	Styal Road, Wilmslow SK9 4HR	(01625) 553 000	Region L - Greater Manchester	Region L - Greater Manchester National Resource

Key	
Cat	Category
Dual Designated	A prison accommodating prisoners in the YOI (18-20) and Adult (21+) age range category in separate accommodation
PSR	Probation Service Region
PSP	Public Sector Prison
STC	Secure Training Centre
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOI	Young Offender Institution

### Probation Service Within Tameside

In September 2023, 14% of Tameside’s probation caseload was aged 25 years and under compared to 16% in Greater Manchester as a whole. In Tameside 34% of the violent offence caseload is due to malicious wounding. Most persons on the caseload were male (93%) and 29% of the total caseload in Tameside is for first time violent offenders. 77% were known to have needs in relation to drugs and/or alcohol (where recorded). Of the total number of violent offenders:

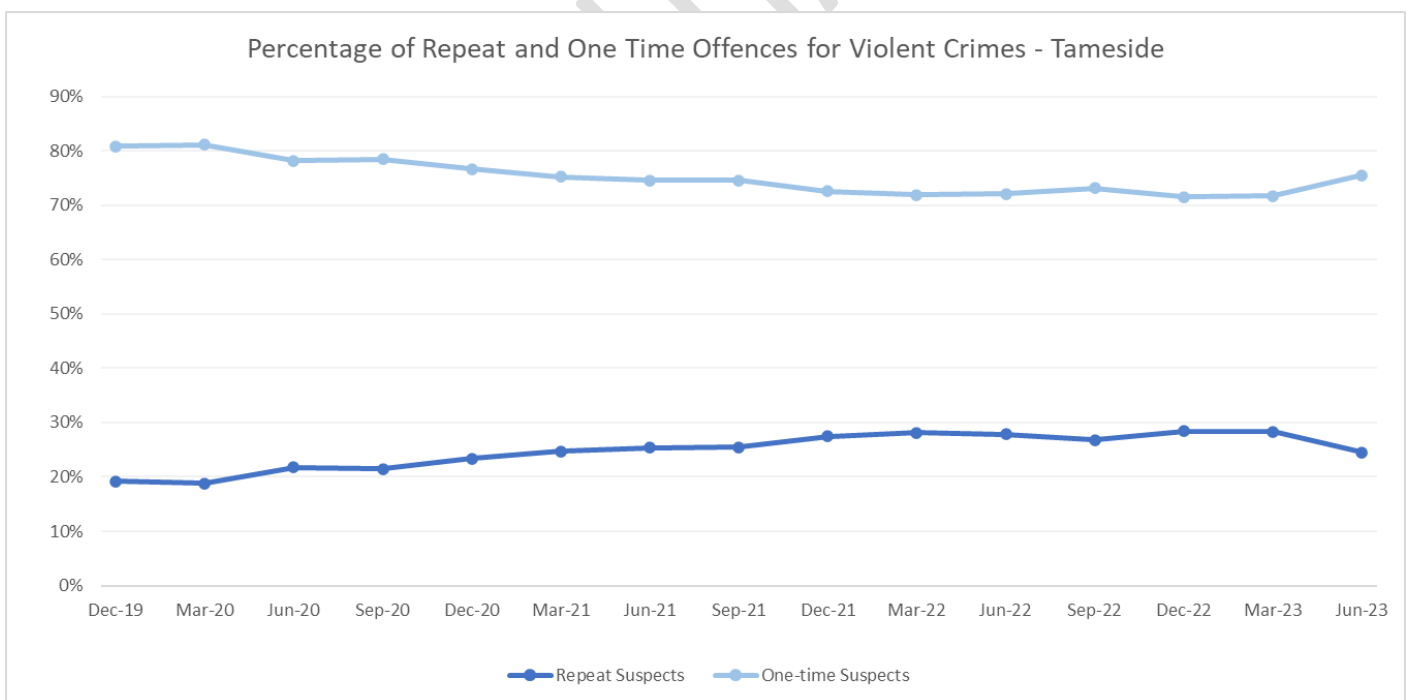
- 84% were White
- 5% Asian
- 3% Black
- 2% Mixed
- 2% Other
- 4% were not recorded.

This cohort within the probation service shows that there are a greater number of males compared with the general population and were more likely to have a substance misuse concern. (Greater Manchester Probation Service, 2023).

### Violence and Re-Offending

Reoffending imposes significant community, societal and economic costs. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the Legal Aid, Sentencing, and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) introduced measures aimed at rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending. In relation to violent crime within Tameside the below figure highlights over time, violent crimes by repeat and first time offenders.

Figure 14 – Greater Manchester Police Recorded Violent Crimes by First Time and Repeat Offenders



From December 2019 to June 2023 an average of 25.1% of all violent crimes were committed by a repeat offender. The percentage of crimes committed by a repeat offender has gradually increased over this period, though with some recent signs of a reduction.

## Safety and Public Perceptions of Crime

Public perceptions of safety can differ from the insights gained from reported crime statistics, and can be influenced by a range of factors. In 2019/20, the Deputy Mayor for Greater Manchester commissioned an ongoing large-scale quarterly independent survey – Greater Manchester Police and Crime Residents survey (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2023). The survey reaches nearly 13,000 Greater Manchester residents per year and is one of the largest surveys of its kind in the UK. The survey provides valuable insight into how residents feel about where they live. The survey results are also provided at a local authority level and details how Tameside residents feel about safety and crime in Tameside. The latest survey conducted in June 2023 highlighted:

- 87% of Tameside residents felt safe within their local area, which is similar to Greater Manchester as a whole.
- 59% felt they could get help from Greater Manchester Police in an emergency, which is similar to Greater Manchester as a whole.
- 42% felt they could get help from Greater Manchester Police in a non-emergency situation, which is similar to Greater Manchester as a whole.
- 41% felt satisfied with Greater Manchester Police overall, which is lower than the Greater Manchester average of 52%.

In relation to young persons' perceptions of community safety and crime, Greater Manchester also conduct the #BeeWell Neighbourhood Survey (University of Manchester, 2022), which is completed by pupils in Years 9 and 10 in secondary schools across Greater Manchester. The data is collated at a neighbourhood level. In Tameside there are four neighbourhoods, East – comprising of: Mossley and Stalybridge, North – comprising of: Ashton-under-Lyne and Dukinfield, South – comprising of: Hyde, Hattersley, Mottram and Broadbottom and West – comprising of Denton, Audenshaw and Droylsden. Within the four neighbourhoods in Tameside (East, North, West and South) the survey found:

- In regard to the statement, "I feel safe in the area where I live":
  - In Tameside East 79.7% agreed
  - In Tameside North 77.8% agreed
  - In Tameside South 80.6% agreed
  - In Tameside West 80.8% agreed.

Whilst Tameside West had the highest safety score, overall all neighbourhoods in Tameside were above the Greater Manchester average.

Overall, while Tameside residents generally feel safe within their local areas, there are some lower scores relating to police responses and satisfaction, with less than half of respondents feeling that the police would provide help in a non-emergency situation, and less than half of respondents being satisfied overall with GM police, which is lower than the GM average.

# Risk and Protective Factors of Violence: Pregnancy and Early Years

'The first 1001 days, from conception to two years old, is considered to be the most important time in a child's life for development, more so than at any other time in their lives. In fact, by the age of two, a child's brain is already 80% developed, and has been making around one million new connections every second.' (Health for Under 5's, 2021)

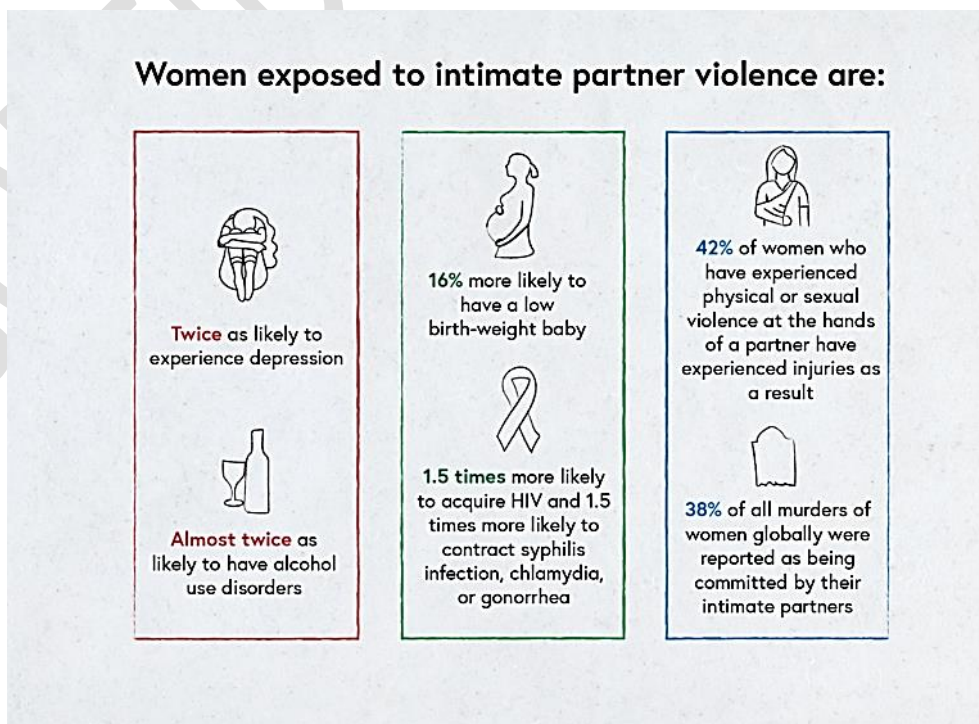
The first 1001 days, from conception to two years old, is the most important time in a child's life for development, more so than at any other time in their lives. In fact, by the age of two, a child's brain is already 80% developed, and has been making around one million new connections every second (Health for Under 5's, 2021). A baby's social, emotional, and cognitive development is impacted by the relationships around them, from their parents/caregivers and their families and friends. If a baby, child or young person experience adversity during this important developmental time, there can be long-lasting consequences with increased risk of poor health and social outcomes. It is important to ensure that babies, children and young people experience love, care, and nurture during their 1,001 developmental days and beyond (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23).

### Maternity Related Domestic Abuse

Research conducted internationally has revealed that three in ten women (30%) who are subject to domestic abuse are physically assaulted for the first time when they are pregnant. (World Health Organization, 2021). Because of the numbers of women involved Domestic abuse is the most common health problem during pregnancy for women. Domestic abuse brings many risks for both the pregnant women and their unborn baby, including infection, premature birth, miscarriage, injury and death. (WHO, 2002) Domestic abuse can also affect a woman's mental health and wellbeing as well as aggravate existing health problems or chronic pain conditions. One of the side effects of domestic abuse is stress and anxiety, which can affect the way babies grow and develop, resulting in long term negative outcomes for babies. Women who are being abused may also worry about how competent they will be as a mother and their ability to love and protect their baby.

It is important to identify if domestic abuse is taking place, including during pregnancy. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ensures that all children under 18 years of age, including babies, are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right when they see, hear or experience domestic abuse and are related to either the victim or the perpetrator. Whilst pregnancy can be a time of great happiness and joy, it can also be a time when domestic abuse can start for the first time and can get worse if there is already domestic abuse within the household (NHS, 2021). Around 30% of domestic abuse begins in pregnancy, and between 40-60% of women experiencing domestic abuse are abused during pregnancy. This makes domestic abuse the most common health problem for women during pregnancy.

Figure 15 – Risks to Women Exposed to Intermate Partner Violence during Pregnancy (Coventry University, 2023)



Domestic abuse is a pattern of assault and coercive behaviour, and can be emotional, physical, psychological, financial and/or sexual. One in 30 women (23,192 female victims) aged 14-49 reported domestic abuse to Greater Manchester Police at least once last year (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2023). National research by Women's Aid indicates that 6% of those in community based domestic abuse services and 8% of those in refuges in 2021-22 were pregnant (Womens Aid, 2023). In Tameside the rate of Domestic Abuse (inclusive of all domestic abuse – not just pregnancy related) was significantly higher in the early 2010's however much work has taken place in this area with Violence with Injury associated with Domestic abuse peaked in 2018 at 922 cases however, there has been a 9% reduction in demand since to 839 cases in 2022. Levels were lowest in 2019, at 738 cases annually (Greater Manchester Police, 2022).

Tameside has a relatively high rate of teenage pregnancy with the under 18 conception rate in Tameside being 21.1 per 1,000 women aged 15-17 in 2021; which is significantly higher than the national average (13.1 per 1,000 women aged 15-17). Young people are at risk of being victims of domestic abuse and wider forms of violent crime therefore support should be specifically targeted at younger pregnant women.

### Living Environment

Parental conflict can impact on the mental health of the baby as well as other adverse childhood experiences and other traumatic exposures. Conversely, having a loving, nurturing, and stable environment where babies are able to feed, be loved and cared for results in positive outcomes. Therefore, it is important that parents or carers get the right type of support to help them give their babies the best start for life (Health for Under 5's, 2021).

Poor parenting, low parental age and family structure, specifically single parent households and lack of parents have all been shown to correlate with ACE prevalence (Institute of Health Equity, 2015). Tameside has the North West's third-largest percentage rise in the proportion of lone-parent households (from 12.8% in 2011 to 13.8% in 2021). Therefore, of the approximately 2800 babies born each year 386 will be either born into or become part of a lone parent household.

Research shows that living in poverty impacts on our life chances and development in a variety of ways. Having a low-income, below the living wage, increases parents/caregivers' stress levels, impacting on family dynamics. Conversely, increases in household income can boost children's educational achievements and emotional and physical wellbeing. Children living in single parent households are more likely to live in poverty (Child Poverty Action Group, 2023). This may be due to various reasons, such as low maintenance payments for children, high childcare costs and the absence of a second income. Nearly half, 45% of single parents, of which 90% are women, are living in poverty (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23).

Additionally, there are many young families in Tameside on the current caseload within the Probation Service. In Greater Manchester, 1 in 6 men aged 18-25 years are fathers to young children. Young adult men in the criminal justice system are often a vulnerable group with histories of social exclusion, poor education, exposure to trauma in childhood, and time spent in local authority care. Lack of exposure to positive parenting in early life and opportunity to develop fathering identities is further exacerbated through contact with the Criminal Justice system, arrest, court attendance, and whilst in prison. These issues present significant challenges when integrating back into their own families as parents or older siblings, or when becoming new step partners when forming new relationships, resulting in ongoing impacts to the young people under their care. All too often we recognise that many young adults lack the capacity, confidence and positive support to parent children or be role models for their younger siblings in a positive way, offering positive contribution to a family unit. (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23).

## What is Currently Happening In Tameside – Protective Factors

Within Tameside there have been many active projects to tackle the inequality and ACEs that babies and young children can experience. These projects include:

- Family Hubs – these provide support to the whole family and are designed as a one-stop-shop to early help and support for families in Tameside. More information can be found [here](#).
- Healthy Child Programme – THRIVE and SEND local offer for child development. More information can be found [here](#).
- Maternity Services – enhanced midwifery team which offers case holding and additional support for women with additional requirements e.g.: mental health issues, learning disabilities, substance misuse etc. More information can be found [here](#).
- The Family Nurse Partnership – a voluntary home visiting programme for vulnerable young mothers, from early in pregnancy until their child is 2 – for example, has generated savings of more than five times the programme costs. This approach could be broadened and embedded in universal services to support more young parents. More information can be found [here](#).
- The Early Help Offer in Tameside - More information can be found [here](#).
- Parent and Carer Panels – an influencing service which helps to shape how Tameside services are delivered for parents and carers of babies under 2 years old. More information can be found [here](#).
- Early Attachment Service – provide additional support by referral for the parent - infant relationship. More information can be found [here](#).
- Home-Start is a local charity of trained volunteers offering one-to-one support, to improve social networks and health. More information can be found [here](#).
- DAD Matters – Part of Home Start and aims to help dads have successful relationships with their families, and to support dads with anxiety, stress and mental health issues. More information can be found [here](#).
- Talking Therapies (previously Healthy Minds) give priority access in pregnancy and in the period after birth. More information can be found [here](#).



# Risk and Protective Factors of Violence: Children and Young People

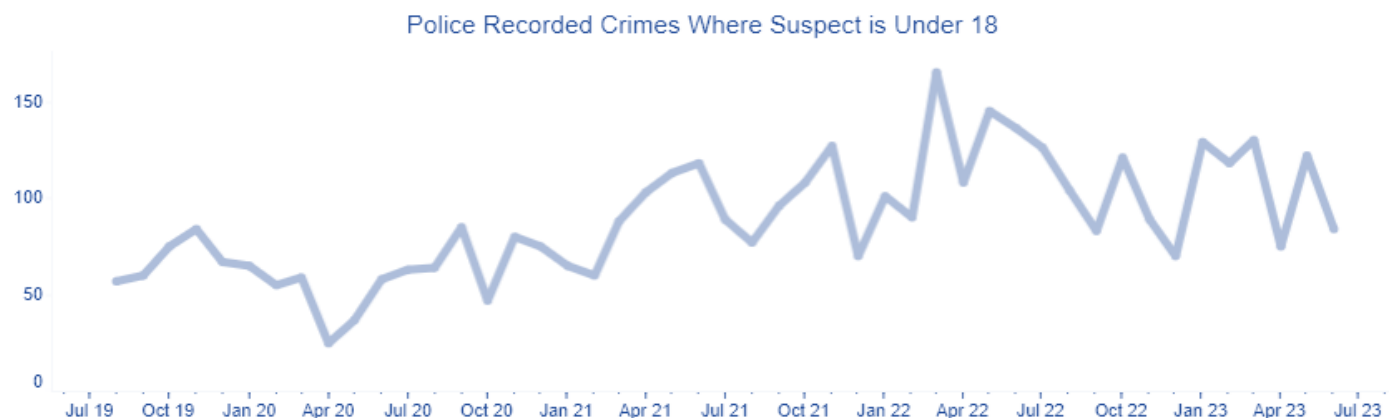
‘The long term poor health outcomes in people who have experienced multiple adverse events in childhood have been well documented since the original CDC-Kaiser study in the late 1990's. Those people who have experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences (ACE) are at significantly increased risk of chronic disease such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes as well as mental illness and health risk behaviours.’ (Mary Boullier, Mitch Blair, 2018)

Young persons or youth violence is violence committed by a person under 25 years which has an impact on individuals, families, communities, and society. It is defined as a global public health problem and includes acts of violence from bullying and fighting to sexual and physical assault and homicides. Worldwide around 200,000 homicides occur among young people 10–29 years of age each year, which is 42% of the total number of homicides globally each year (WHO, 2020). Youth violence, whether experienced as a perpetrator or victim has far reaching impacts on a young person throughout their life.

### Violent Crime Committed By Young Persons

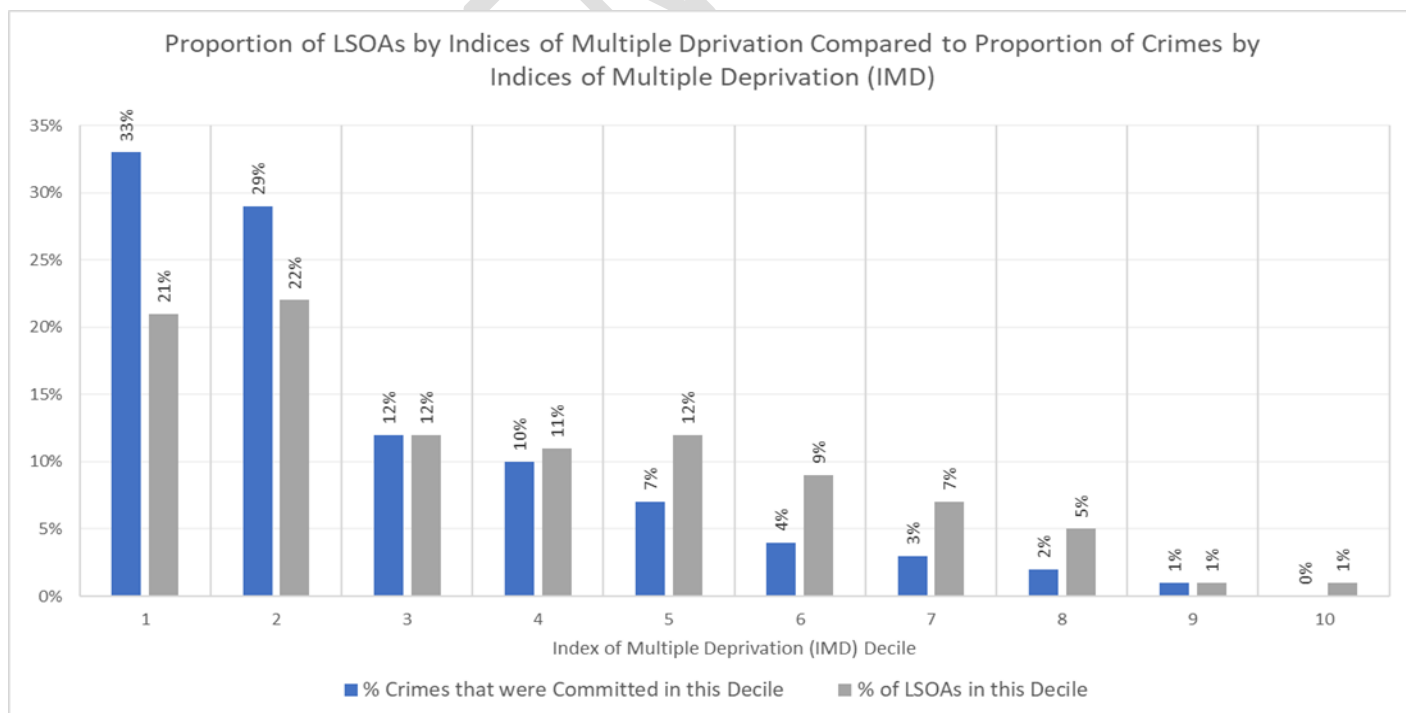
Taken from the youth justice dashboard from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the below graphs highlight the numbers of violent crime incidents by a suspect under the age of 18 within Tameside.

[Figure 16 – Police Recorded Crimes Committed By a Suspect Under 18 Years old Resident in Tameside](#)



Of all crimes under 18 crimes committed, violent crimes accounted for on average a third of all crimes where the suspect was under 18. This is slightly below the Greater Manchester average but similarly to Greater Manchester, Tameside is on an upward trend.

[Figure 17 - Under 18 Suspect Crimes by IMD 2019 in Tameside](#)



When looking at the violent crimes committed by under 18’s from 2019-2023 by the Index of Multiple Deprivation Deciles in Figure 17 above, an over representative proportion of the crimes were committed in

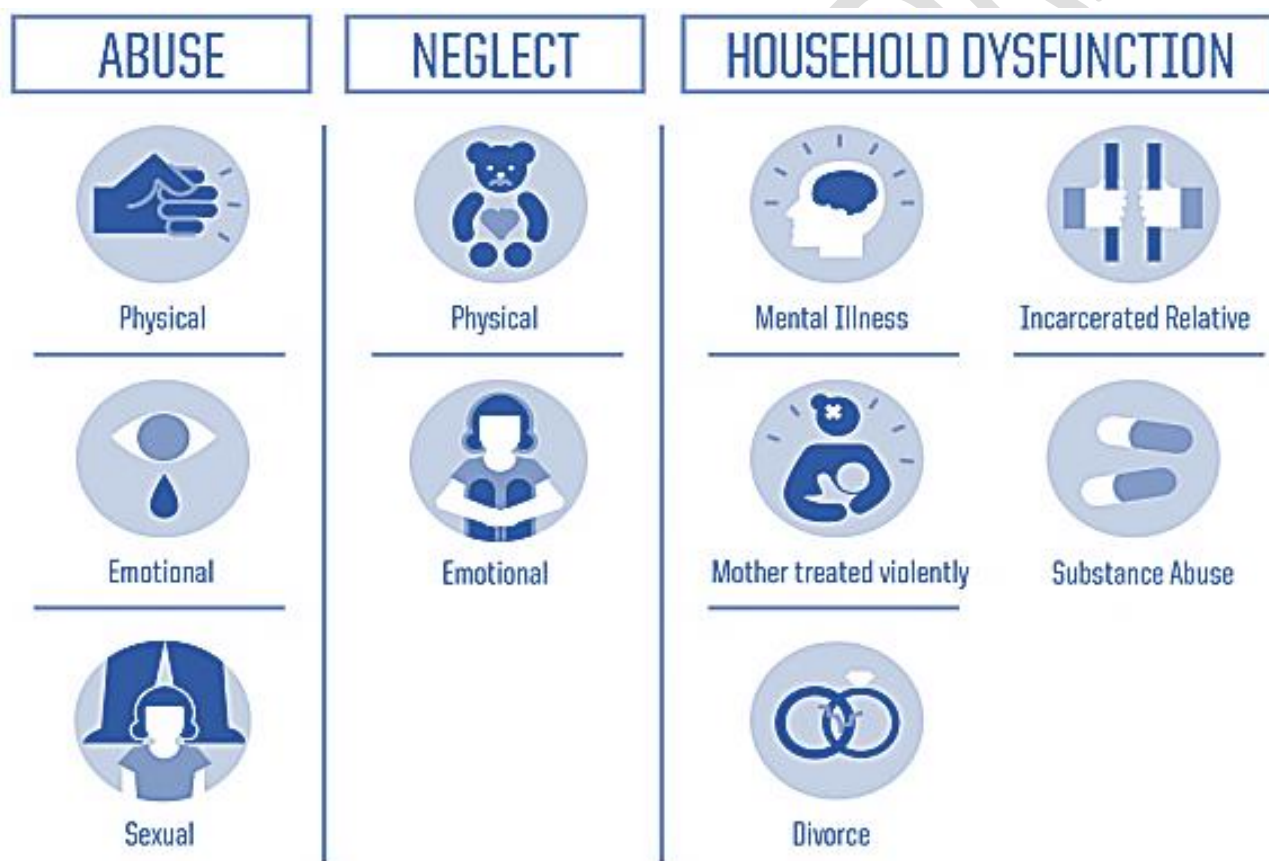
the most deprived parts of Tameside. This further highlights the evidence of the link between youth related crime and deprivation.

### Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is a term that refers to a range of traumatic experiences that individuals may have endured during their childhood and adolescence. These experiences can have long-lasting negative effects on physical, mental, and emotional health. The concept of ACEs was first introduced by a landmark study conducted by Vincent J. Felitti and Robert F. Anda in the late 1990s. ACEs encompass various forms of childhood adversity, including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, household dysfunction (e.g., substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence, divorce), and other traumatic events that occur before the age of 18. (Felitti, 1998).

The below infographic demonstrates the types of adverse childhood experiences by abuse, neglect and household dysfunction which has been shown in studies and research, perpetuates the deep entrenchment of ACEs and can result in crime and criminality becoming a generational norm.

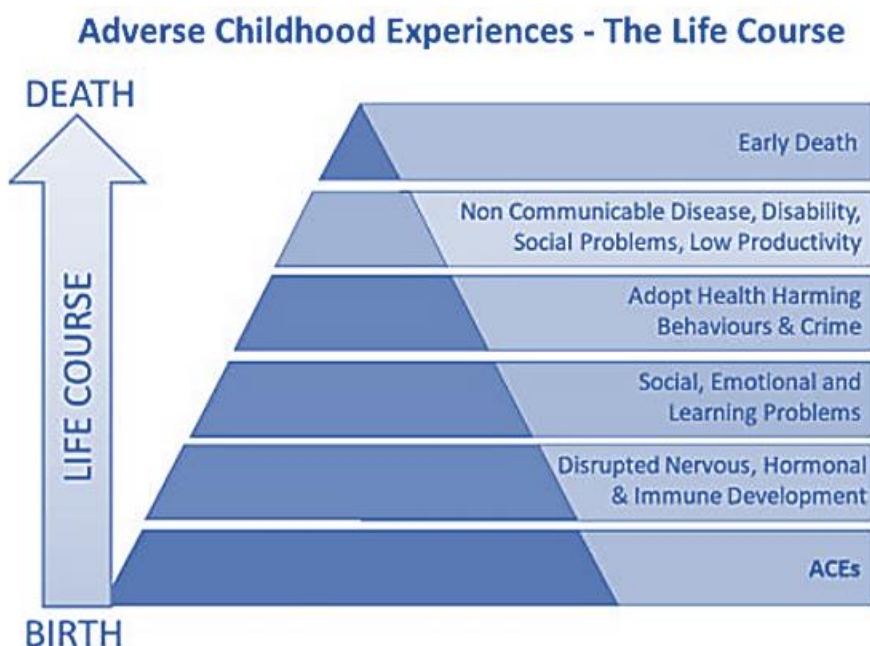
[Figure 18 - Types of adverse childhood experiences by abuse, neglect and household dysfunction](#)



(Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2023)

These effects can result in a perpetuating cycle of children going on to exhibit the same behaviours which have caused an ACE in the first place. Additionally across the life course, ACEs have been shown to have adverse effects on both physical and mental health and in turn the individuals affected can have a reduced life expectancy (Institute of Health Equity, 2015).

Figure 19 - Adverse Childhood Experiences Life Course – Adapted from (Felitti, 1998)



As highlighted above the link to crime and in particular serious violence from ACEs is strong. Below are a set of highlighted metrics around Tameside’s current position in respect of ACEs and children. These metrics provide some context and a proxy for the prevalence of ACEs, which also indicates an increased risk of young people in Tameside being both the victims and perpetrators of violent crime. These show that there are a number of measures which relate directly to ACEs where Tameside is performing significantly worse than the national average. Evidence tells us that a 1/6 of homeless individuals will end up getting involved with crime (SELF, 2021) and living in a low-income family is linked to higher rates of offending (Nuffield Foundation, 2022). In Tameside, the proportion of children living in low-income families is above both the North West and England average, as highlighted below.

Figure 20 - Indicators of ACEs within Tameside - Current Position

Indicator	Period	Tameside			Region	England	England		
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst/Lowest	Comparison with England	Best/Highest
Children in care	2022	–	666	130	97	70	218	●	26
Pupil absence	2021/22	→	873,651	7.2%	7.5%	7.6%	9.2%	●	4.30%
First time entrants to the youth justice system	2022	→	52	227.5	165.9	148.9	454.5	●	37.2
Children entering the youth justice system (10-17 yrs)	2020/21	↓	49	2.3	2.4	2.8	5.7	●	1.1
16 to 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known	2021	→	401	8.1%	4.9%	4.7%	14.7%	●	0.00%
Children in absolute low income families (under 16s)	2021/22	–	7,999	17.4%	16.6%	15.3%	35.3%	●	4.20%
Under 18s conception rate / 1,000	2021	–	83	21.1	16.4	13.1	31.5	●	2.7
Teenage mothers	2021/22	→	15	0.60%	0.70%	0.60%	2.40%	●	0.00%
Homelessness - households with dependent children owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act	2021/22	–	324	11.8	15.4	14.4	39.3	●	4.5
Domestic abuse related incidents and crimes	2021/22	–	-	37.7*	32.5	30.8	12.3	●	45.2

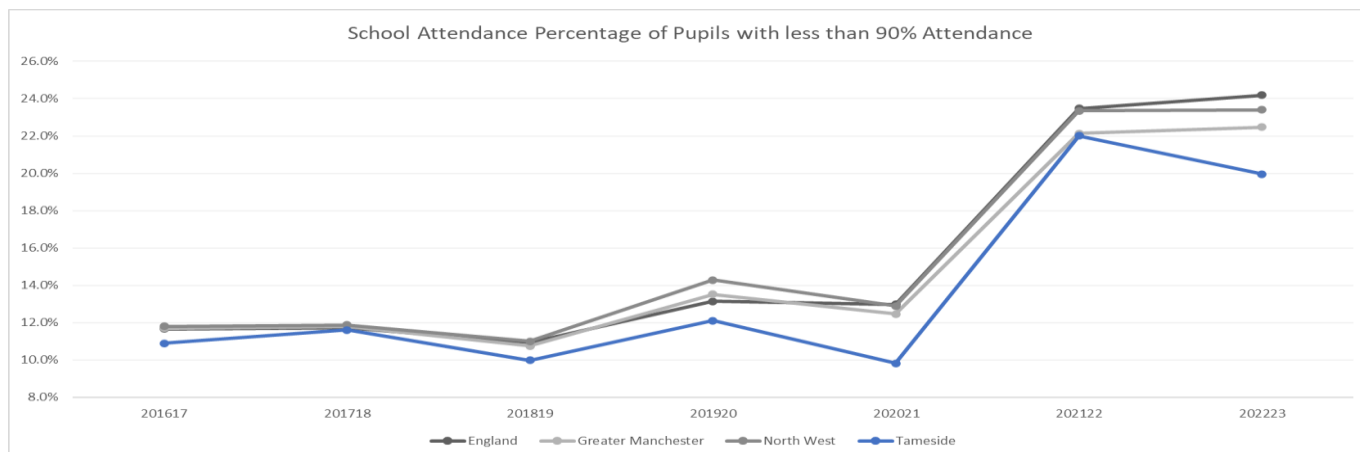
\*this value is an average crime rate across Greater Manchester (from Greater Manchester Police data), rather than Tameside specific.

### School Attendance and Attainment

Attendance in a school or college environment is the best way for children to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care. Evidenced through studies and a priority for the government (Department for Education, 2022)

attendance in school is a protective factor from serious violence. The below figure highlights Tameside's level of less than 90% attendance in school, compared against Greater Manchester, the North West and England (Department for Education, 2023).

[Figure 21 – School Attendance within Tameside - Current Position](#)



Tameside's overall percentage of absenteeism over time has been less than the Greater Manchester, North West and England averages. This is for both less than 90% attendance of pupils and less than 50% attendance. As part of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a national increase in the proportion of pupils with less than 90% attendance, which has also been seen in Tameside. Before this period, this had reduced in Tameside with a lower rate than national and regional averages. Despite the increase since the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of below 90% attendance have remained below the national and regional averages in Tameside and further reductions have been seen in the most recent data for 2022/23.

Research has consistently shown that attainment at school can serve as a protective factor against serious violence and involvement in criminal activities. Higher educational achievement is associated with a range of positive outcomes, including reduced risk of engaging in violent behavior (Farrington, 2004). In Tameside the below figure highlights the current attainment of each key stage of education, beginning of primary school, end of key stage 1, end of primary school and the end of secondary school.

[Figure 22 – School Attainment within Tameside - Current Position](#)

Indicator	Period	Tameside			Region	England	England		
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Value	Worst	Compared to England	Best
School readiness: percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception	2021/22	–	1,692	60.1%	61.7%	65.2%	53.1%	●	74.4%
Key stage 1 pupils meeting the expected standard in reading	2021/22	–	1,899	64.0%	65.0%	67.0%	58.0%	●	77.0%
Key stage 1 pupils meeting the expected standard in writing	2021/22	–	1,617	55.0%	55.0%	58.0%	48.0%	●	71.0%
Key stage 1 pupils meeting the expected standard in maths	2021/22	–	1,940	66.0%	66.0%	68.0%	59.0%	●	76.0%
Key stage 1 pupils meeting the expected standard in science	2021/22	–	2,189	74.0%	75.0%	77.0%	64.0%	●	86.0%
Key stage 2 pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths	2019/20	–	1,878	63.4%	64.6%	65.3%	53.6%	●	81.0%
Average Attainment 8 score	2021/22	–	123,275	45.6	47.1	48.7	39.2	○	61.3

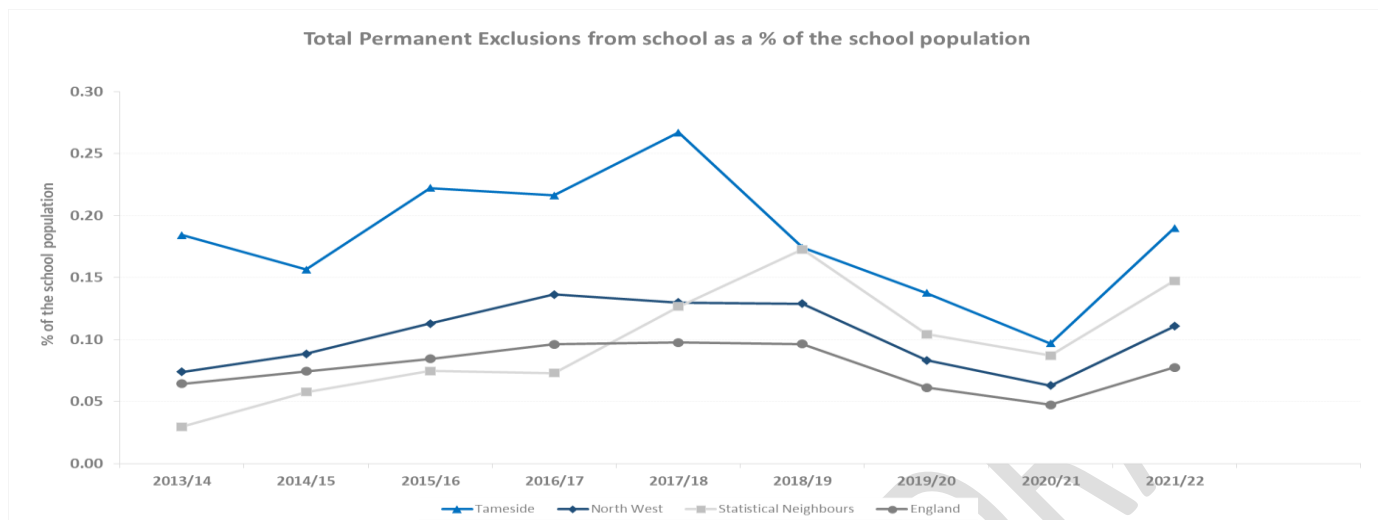
Tameside's attainment has been significantly lower than the England average for all measures, with covid widening the gap.

### Exclusions and Suspensions/Fixed Term Exclusions

A suspension, or sometimes referred to as a fixed term exclusion is where a pupil has been temporarily removed from the school, whilst a permanent exclusion is when a pupil is no longer allowed to attend a school. Children who had been cautioned or sentenced for an offence were more likely to be both suspended

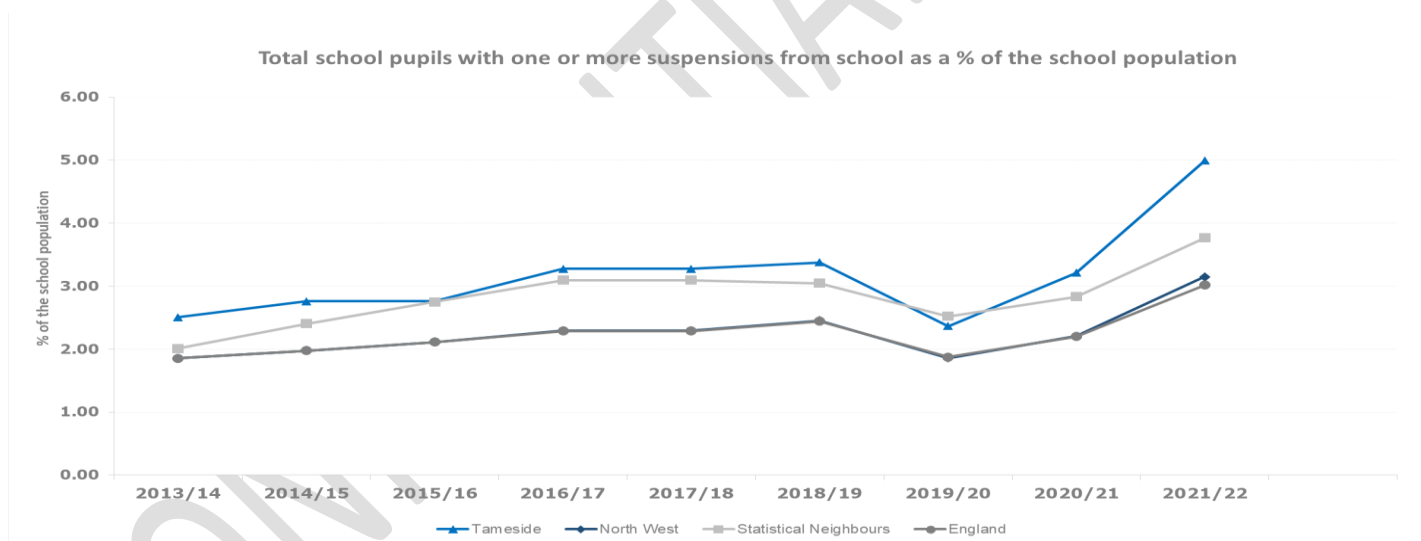
and/or permanently excluded than the all-pupil cohort; with children whose offending had been prolific having the highest proportion of suspensions/fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions (Department for Justice and Department for Education, 2022).

**Figure 23 – Permanent Exclusions – Primary and Secondary School as a Percentage of the School Population**



Tameside’s overall percentage of permanent exclusions over time has been higher than the Greater Manchester, statistical neighbour, North West and England averages.

**Figure 24 – Suspensions/Fixed Term Exclusions – Primary and Secondary School as a Percentage of the School Population**



Tameside’s overall percentage of suspensions / fixed term exclusions over time has been higher than the Greater Manchester, statistical neighbour, North West and England averages.

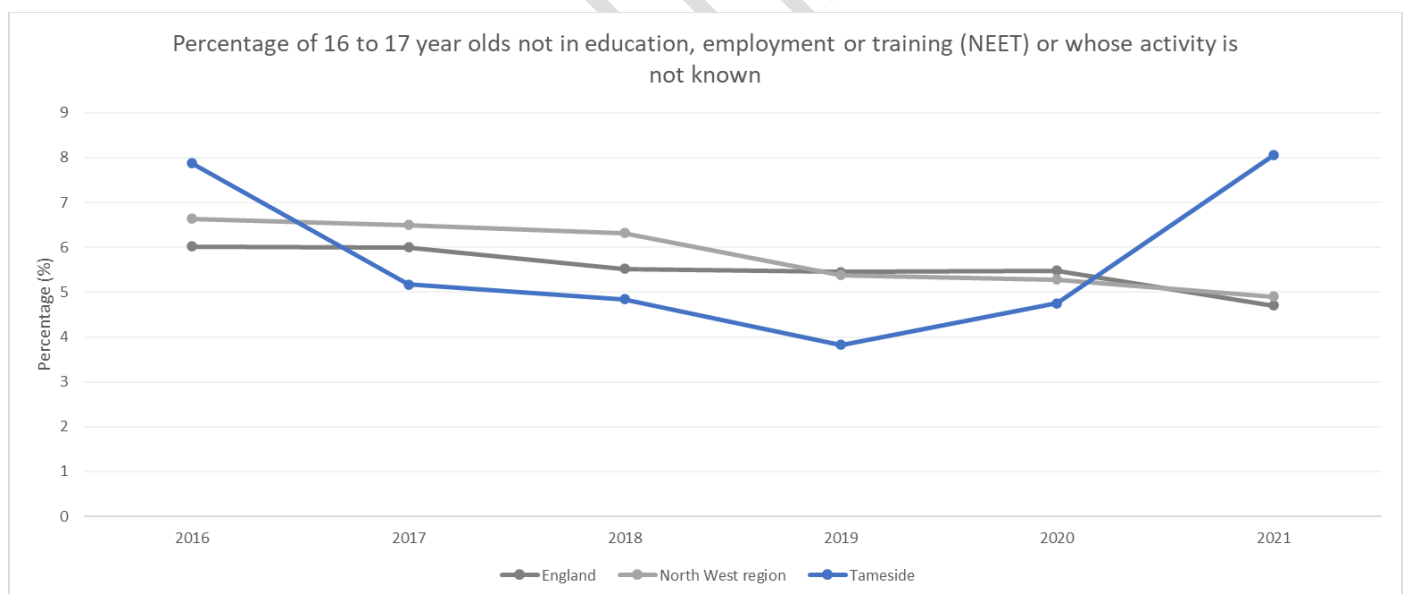
The data presented indicates consistently higher percentages of both permanent exclusions and suspensions compared to the averages in Greater Manchester, the statistical neighbour, the North West, and England over time. This trend highlights a significant challenge within the educational system in Tameside, indicating a persistent need for attention and potential intervention in managing behavioral issues and maintaining a conducive learning environment. Work detailed below in the protective factors outlines what is currently happening to help to reduce the rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions.

## Young Persons Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

The concept of "Not in Education, Employment, or Training" (NEET) is often used to refer to young people who are not currently enrolled in education, employed, or undergoing vocational training. The NEET status is associated with various negative outcomes, including a potential link to serious violence for the following reasons:

- It can be an indicator of disengagement from society. Disengaged youth are at a higher risk of becoming involved in risky behaviors, including violent activities (Rachel Sandford, 2006).
- There can be a lack opportunities for personal and professional development. This lack of purpose and opportunity can make them more susceptible to negative influences, including involvement in violent activities (Hurrelmann, 2015).
- NEET is often linked to economic deprivation, which can lead to frustration and desperation. In some cases, individuals may resort to criminal activities, including violence, as a means of economic survival (Joseph Murray, 2007).
- Exposure to negative peer influences. Lack of structured activities and supervision can lead to association with peers engaged in criminal or violent behaviors (Thornberry, 2003).
- Social isolation and a sense of alienation from mainstream society. Such isolation can lead to a lack of prosocial values and connections, making individuals more vulnerable to involvement in violent activities (Michaela Pfundmair, 2022).
- A significant number of NEET individuals may struggle with mental health issues, and untreated mental health problems can increase the risk of engaging in violent behavior (Aase Villadsen, 2023).
- Addressing NEET status can be an important preventive measure to break the cycle of violence. By providing education and employment opportunities, you can offer positive alternatives to those at risk (UCL Institute of Health Equity and Public Health England, 2014).

Figure 25 – Percentage of 16 & 17 Year Old NEET



In Tameside, the rate of young people NEET has fluctuated in recent years with the rate for 16 and 17 year olds being significantly lower than the national average in 2019 and 2020, but the latest data for 2021 shows a sharp increase in the rate of NEET in 16 and 17 year olds in Tameside which is now significantly higher than the national average and places Tameside with the 7<sup>th</sup> highest rate in the country.

Reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET will not only reduce the risk of involvement in serious violence but will also promote individual well-being, social inclusion, and economic stability.

## Youth Justice

From (Tameside Youth Justice Service, 2023), between April 2020 and March 2023, a total of 321 children have received a substantive outcome to any offence, of which nearly 1 in 10 of the offences would fall into the category of serious youth violence (SYV).

### Serious Violence and Exploitation

A total of 38 children out of the 321 who received a substantive outcome, did so for SYV. Of these children 27% were from an ethnic minority community, which is higher than the representative population of Tameside. The overall prevalence of SYV as a percentage of crime has not changed significantly over the 3 years: 20/21 – 9%; 21/22 – 9% and 22/23 – 10%. However the numbers of offences have increased, and youth justice are seeing a significant rise in Violence against the Person offences as can be seen in figure 24, meaning that the distribution in type of crime has changed.

Figure 26 – Number of Offences by Type in Youth Justice Service

Year	Drugs	Robbery	Violence against the person	Total SYV Offences
2020/21	2	12	1	15
2021/22	1	15	3	19
2022/23	3	10	15	28

Further analysis of those involved in the commission of these offences is being conducted by the youth justice service to identify any patterns or trends and inform current practice within the service. What however is known so far, that despite the low numbers, there has been a significant rise in the number of girls involved with offences of Violence against the Person.

The imposition of an additional Senior Practitioner role within the youth justice service has allowed for increased monitoring of the overnight arrest data, to include all those who are released under investigation. Cases of concern are identified and discussed at the recently introduced complex safeguarding daily briefings, which are attended by Greater Manchester Police, complex safeguarding, youth justice, SHiFT and the early help and safeguarding hub (EHASH). This meeting recognises and responds to risk and harm in the community, to include more specifically extra familial harms such as peer on peer violence and exploitation. (Tameside Youth Justice Service, 2023).

### What is Currently Happening In Tameside – Protective Factors

Within Tameside there have been many active projects to tackle the inequality and ACEs that Children and Young People can experience. These projects include:

- Family Hubs – these provide support to the whole family and are designed as a one-stop-shop to early help and support for families in Tameside. More information can be found [here](#).
- Supporting Families (former Troubled Families) programme. More information can be found [here](#).
- Commissioning of Domestic Abuse support services Bridges and TLC programme for children who harm. More information can be found [here](#).
- I am Greater – help and support online and a resource bank of information and support services for young people affected by violence. More information can be found [here](#).
- Trauma informed practice – signs of safety in children’s services; Tameside’s relational practice model and workers trained in Trauma Informed Practice. More information can be found [here](#).



- SHiFT - Exists to break the destructive cycle of children and young people caught up in, or at risk of, crime, seeking to transform both policy and practice in how young people in these circumstances are seen and supported. More information can be found [here](#).
- The Tameside Framework for Help and Support is for anyone working with or in contact with children and families who has concerns about a child. This includes the early help and safeguarding hub (EHASH). More information can be found [here](#).
- A number of different organisations that can offer mental help to children and young people. More information can be found [here](#).
- Tameside Children's Services have developed an attendance strategy and support for those with reduced attendance at school. More information can be found [here](#).
- YOUthink - specialist youth workers that deliver sexual health intervention and prevention young people aged under 25. More information can be found [here](#).
- GPs and other front line professionals can refer young people to the sexual health service for any sexual health concerns, including those relating to domestic violence, substance misuse, criminal justice involvement, sexual assault, Child Sexual Exploitation etc. More information can be found [here](#).
- Branching Out - a free and confidential service that specialises in supporting young people 25 and under who are affected by drugs or alcohol. A link worker also sits within the youth justice service to link young people in the justice system with Branching Out. More information can be found [here](#).
- The Safe Squad safety training, from first aid to online protection, to more than 2,382 young people in 59 primary schools across Tameside. Schools described the sessions as "engaging", "very informative", and "a really positive and valuable experience." More information can be found [here](#).
- Tameside Pupil Referral Service - established in September 2011 as an integrated provision for young people who are not currently in mainstream school for a variety of reasons, primarily as a result of permanent exclusion. Encompasses to sites White Bridge College and Elmbridge School. More information can be found [here](#).
- Interventions for young people at risk of offending and or permanent exclusion funded by Community Safety Partnership. This includes Military Mentors, Sale Shark's outreach programme, Build-a-bike programme and Construction Courses. This runs with targeted young people (identified through Youth Justice, Police, Schools and other professionals) and is based alongside Tameside's Pupil Referral Units White Bridge College and Elmbridge School.
- Outreach mentors funded by Community Safety Partnership. The outreach team have 3 members of staff supporting students across 14 secondary schools in Tameside. Their role is to work with Tameside secondary schools and be proactive in reducing students who are likely to be permanently excluded in the future.
- Onsite Counsellor/Therapist funded by Community Safety Partnership. This is a dedicated resource for the PRU's in Tameside and works with the most vulnerable students at risk of permanent exclusion.
- In reach tutor team funded by Community Safety Partnership. Remote learning offer to provide one-to-one tuition for children and young people who are persistently absent to re-engage them with learning.
- Mobile learning unit funded by Community Safety Partnership. Allowing young people working with the in-reach tutor team to have an alternative location to work that isn't the classroom and using it as the first step back into education.

- Knife and Weapons Protocol: Knife and weapons work that is delivered in partnership with the schools and police school liaison officers. This arrangement ensures that there is a swift multi-agency response to reports of children having weapons on school premises and puts a targeted intervention in place straight away to reduce the potential of the young person being permanently excluded and to support the school in their risk management of the situation. This approach has been very successful and led to children receiving support and education about the dangers of carrying weapons at an earlier stage and without the need for them to always enter the formal youth justice system to receive this.
- Youth Justice Service (YJS) Prevention Offer: Several offers for prevention designed to identify children and young people at risk of offending to offer early intervention and support. Some offers are externally funded (Violence Reduction Unit, Community Safety Partnership, Ministry of Justice) and have attached eligibility criteria. For those who do not meet the criteria, YJS offer a generic prevention programme which accepts referrals from any agency & self-referrals from parents/ carers.

## Case Study – Tameside Pupil Referral Service, Outreach Service

Pupil A was referred following an incidents of violence and aggression towards peers both in school and in the community. Pupil A was also disengaged with some of their lessons often truanting and going to sit outside and refusing to engage with staff.

Pupil A was displaying traits of ASD. Pupil A presented as very fixed in their thinking, dislikes change, has relentless routines at home that they feel they must follow and has a dislike of certain materials on their skin. Following consultation with SENDco from A's school, they confirmed that at her mum's request Pupil A was referred onto the ADHD and Social Communication pathway and was accepted onto it in 2021. Pupil A is on the SEND monitoring list and accesses their lessons without additional support but has just started regular mentoring sessions with a TA.

Pupil A has always engaged well and presented as extremely remorseful of their actions, often getting upset for feeling angry all the time and not being able to control this. This was explored extensively and the majority of the PRU work was focused on Pupil A accepting their emotions and learning how to deal with them as they arise.

School were very supportive of Pupil A putting in place suggested support such as a safe place for Pupil A to go to when their anxiety and stress levels rise, having an identified member of staff for Pupil A to go to at times of stress, allowing Pupil A to listen to music to help them regulate themselves in their safe space and moving Pupil A's science lesson as this was a huge source of anxiety. Initially Pupil A did not engage in any of these support mechanisms and would still often truant and did not feel that they would engage with staff. This attitude was often due to Pupil A thinking they did not deserve the help and not understanding how these mechanisms could help them. Through the volcano exercise Pupil A was shown through visual representation how their safe space and staff support can help them regulate their emotions throughout the day, so they do not 'boil over' into violence/aggression at the end of the day on their way home in the community. This was revisited several times and over time Pupil A began to engage in support from school.

Pupil A's self-esteem was extremely low, and exercises were built into each session to support Pupil A in this. Over a few months, these exercises were often sessions on being self-reflective of Pupil A's progress in being able to help school more proactively. Pupil A was encouraged to engage in hobbies and passions that they have. Pupil A enjoys reading and the intervention worker visited the library with them as they were very nervous about going into the library as they had never been in. The intervention worker encouraged Pupil A to start walking in the evening (to also help with sleep) and Pupil A also became a PRIDE ambassador for the school. Over a number of sessions the intervention worker was able to encourage Pupil A to wear their rainbow lanyard around school.

Pupil A has shown huge improvements in their approach and how they cope with school over the last few months. Pupil A has improved relationships with staff, they are no longer truanting lessons (or if they do the occasions are few and far between as opposed to daily), they have not been in isolation for a long time and Pupil A has not received any Fixed Term Exclusions for over 4 months. Additionally, Pupil A was assaulted, and they did not retaliate. Pupil A has had no incidents in the community, displayed no aggression to members of the public and has not been physically violent towards anyone in school or in the community. Most importantly, Pupil A feels happier in school and on the whole is now enjoying their time at school. In the final session with the intervention worker, Pupil A reflected that they felt that they was not capable of achieving what they had and stated that they had underestimated themselves. Pupil A's Teaching Assistant who supports Pupil A on a daily basis has said it has been a joy to see them transform.

Pupil A will need to continue to have this support in school going into the next year of school. Pupil A often struggles with sleep which affects their mood and so Pupil A can sometimes still present as quite low in mood, this in turn affects their confidence in their ability. Hopefully Pupil A will continue to engage well and have a successful year without the need for a referral back to Tameside PRU Outreach service.

# Risk and Protective Factors of Violence: Adulthood and Ageing Well

‘There are three forms of violence:

(1) self-directed violence, involving self-harm and suicide

(2) interpersonal violence, involving familial and community violence  
(including youth violence)

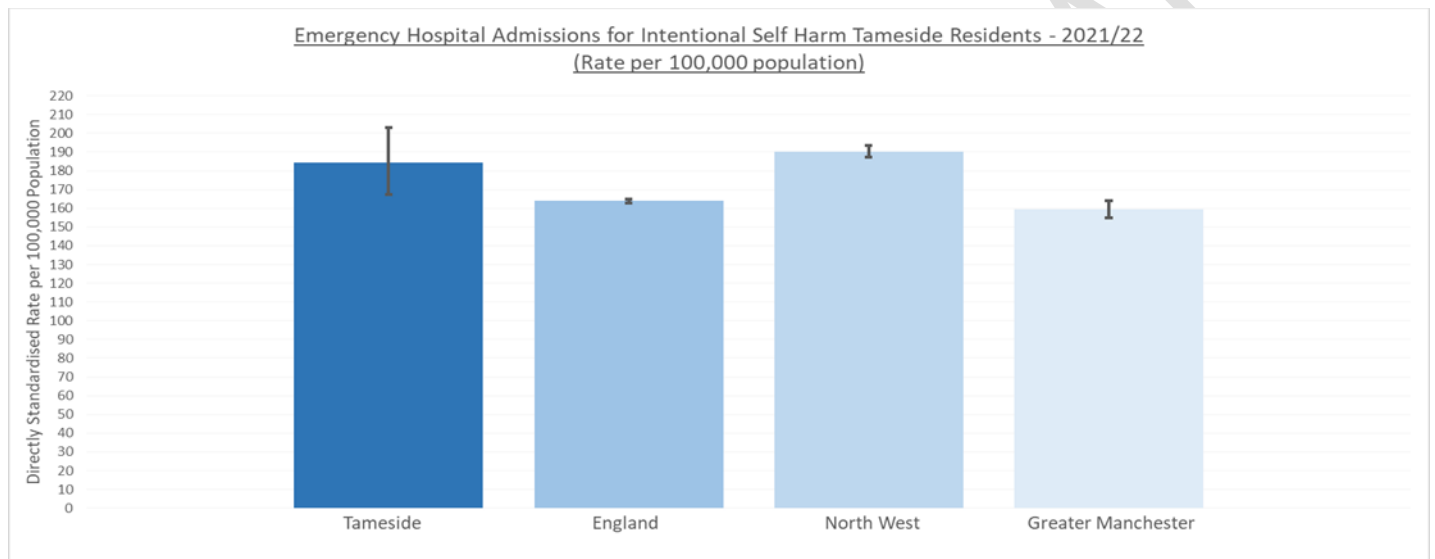
(3) collective violence, involving social, political and economic forms of  
violence.’ (WHO, 2002)

Serious violence within adulthood can present itself in three main ways – self-directed (suicide and self-harm), interpersonal (crime against another, can also be gang related) or as a collective (larger group violence and is committed by larger groups of individuals or by countries). Although these types of serious violence are also found in children and young people, they occur in a higher quantity in adulthood.

### Self-Directed Violence

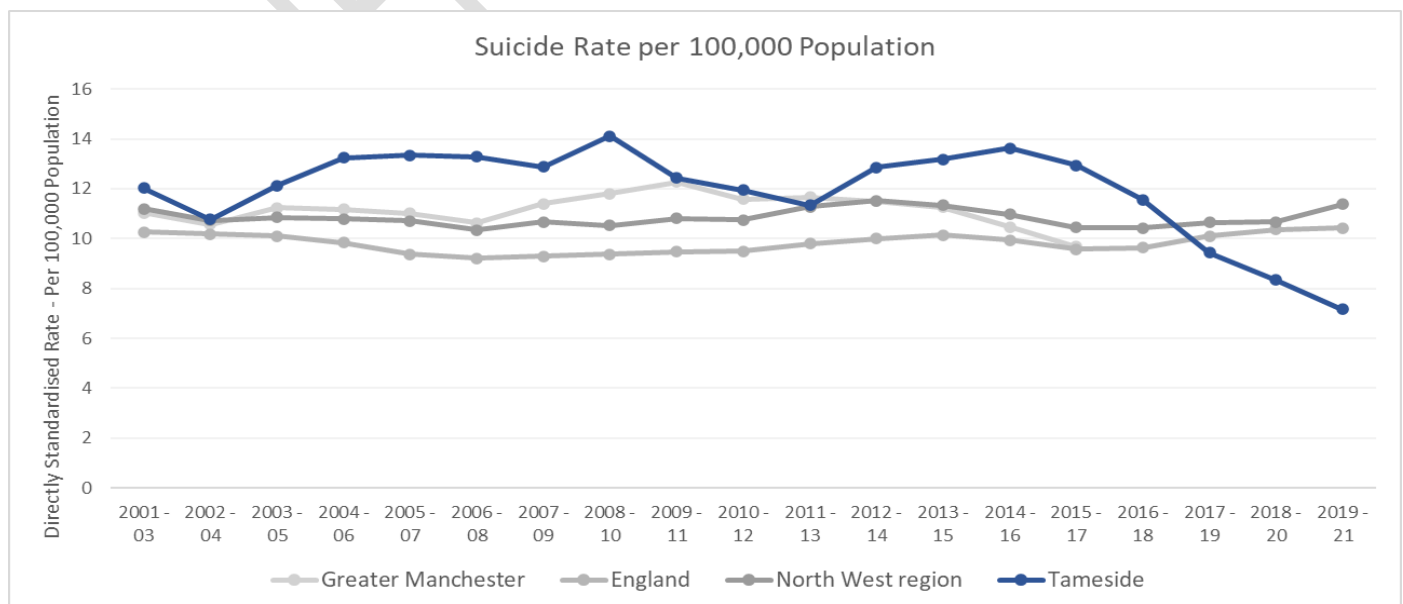
There is a strong association between child abuse and neglect and risks of attempted suicide in young people and adults; something that is not always captured in local suicide audits. (Felitti, 1998). It was found that four or more ACEs experienced in childhood meant that as an adult individuals were 12 times more likely to attempt suicide. Nationally and within Greater Manchester attempted and actual suicides have increased over time. The graph below highlights the current position in Tameside compared with the England average.

[Figure 27 - Emergency Hospital Admissions for Intentional Self Harm Tameside Residents - Current Position \(Rate per 100,000 population\)](#)



As the above chart shows Tameside has a significantly higher rate (184.4 admissions per 100,000 people per year) of hospital admissions for intentional self-harm than the national average. As there is only one data point it is not possible to discuss trends over time however, the data below indicates a falling rate of completed suicides in Tameside in recent years.

[Figure 28 – Suicide Estimates of Tameside Residents - Current Position \(Rate per 100,000 population\)](#)



As highlighted above, the current rate of completed suicides in Tameside is significantly lower than the England average. While there have been statistically significant reductions in this rate, caution should be used as the relatively low numbers of completed suicides each year in Tameside mean this value is subject to variation year-on-year, however as highlighted by figure 26 Tameside has seen a decreasing trend.

During 2023 the latest Suicide Audit for the borough was conducted and highlighted while the estimated rate in Tameside was historically higher than regional and national averages, it has fallen from a 2015 peak of 13.6 deaths per 100,000 of the population to 7.2 deaths per 100,000 in 2020. The Tameside suicide rate has now been significantly below the regional and national averages for five years. While year by year there are considerable differences in the number of people who take their lives by suicide, there appears to be a recurring peak in January and in early Summer. At least one third of people who took their own lives made their intention known in some way in the days, weeks and months before their deaths. However, it does not appear that self-harm was associated with many suicides in Tameside. In line with national evidence, a number of groups appear to be at higher risk of suicide in Tameside including men, those aged between 35 and 55 and those living in areas of deprivation. Suicide appears to be a predominantly social issue, rather than a predominantly clinical one. Personal and social factors (often alongside physical and mental health factors) appear to cluster together, bringing about crisis and increasing the risk of suicide.

There is ongoing prioritisation of the work to reduce and prevent suicide across Tameside including updates to the Suicide Prevention Strategy during 2023, suicide audits and delivery of the Shining a light on Suicide campaign and the roll out of mental health first aider training amongst businesses and partner organisations across the borough.

## Interpersonal Violence

As defined by the World Health Organization interpersonal violence refers to violence between individuals and is subdivided into family and intimate partner violence and community violence. The former category includes child maltreatment; intimate partner violence; and elder abuse, while the latter is broken down into acquaintance and stranger violence and includes youth violence; assault by strangers; violence related to property crimes; and violence in workplaces and other institutions. (World Health Organization, 2023)

From (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23) the following is quoted around interpersonal violence from Greater Manchester's probation data (2023) regarding demographics for those people aged over 25 years:

- 92% are Male.
- 80% White, 9% Asian, 6% Black, 4% Mixed, 2% Other
- 42% are on probation due to violent offences including 6% which were homicides or attempted homicides.
- 34% of women aged over 25 years on the probation caseload were known to have been victims of domestic abuse.
- 55% have no qualifications.
- 9% Homeless and 35% Living with friends and/or family.
- 70% (where specified) known to have drug and/or alcohol needs.

Some of the data above highlights several of the potential risk factors for violence, as outlined in the Background and Demographics section, particularly the proportion who are male and the proportion who have known drug and alcohol needs.

## Personal Robbery

Personal robbery in this section relates to the use of a weapon, the presence of verbal threats and the presence of physical violence during a personal robbery. Tameside ranks as the area within GMP with the least amount of serious violence related personal robberies. Tameside has also been on a downward trajectory from a peak in 2018. This may be due to the fact that the fundamental motivation for personal robbery is financial and/or asset gain, and typically sees offenders with poor socioeconomic conditions engaging in this. Of 141 lower super output areas of Tameside, only 11 of these falls in the most deprived 5% nationally. This figure is higher for many other districts in Greater Manchester, which may explain the relatively lower rate of offending in this area. (Greater Manchester Police, 2022).

Younger men are more likely to be offenders of robbery crimes with 88% being men and 63% being 16-34 years of age. Similar patterns apply to victims of robbery with the majority being younger men. There is also a higher number of repeat offenders with some of the risk factors for this being people who have experienced repeat incidents of domestic abuse during childhood, drug and alcohol dependency, and involvement with children's social care. The most common location for personal robbery offences is Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre (Greater Manchester Police, 2022).

## Violence With Injury

Under this section violence with injury covers alcohol related violence, drug related violence, hate crimes and weapons offences. Although within the same topic area, domestic abuse is discussed in further detail below. Tameside contributes 8% of GMP Forcewide Violence with Injury demand. (Greater Manchester Police, 2022).

Over the last five years there is clear elevated demand and call outs to police for incidents across the summer months (May – August), and a decline in demand when the weather is typically colder (October – January) which could suggest lighter nights, warmer weather and associated activities do contribute to the risk of incidents taking place. In addition, crimes under this category were more likely to take place at night, specifically around midnight and is expected as drug and alcohol trends, mean people will typically use substances in the evening and utilise pubs and off licences. When looking at the demographics of offenders almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  are male and the peak age of an offender is between 25-44 years old. 88% of offenders are from a White British background, which is representative of Tameside ethnicities. Conversely when we look at victims 55% are male, suggesting some crimes committed are perpetrated by a male to a female – which is likely due to domestic abuse related incidents.

## Domestic Abuse

Although an aspect of violence with injury for the purposes of this needs assessment, domestic abuse has been brought together in this section. Domestic abuse can affect anyone within a household and is multifaceted. The most known and common type of domestic abuse is between partners, however domestic abuse can also take place between an adult by a child and by an adult to a child and can also be multigenerational. The below diagram relates to domestic abuse and displays the behaviours that highlight a domestically abusive situation, although originally produced in the 1980's this model is still the current model for domestic abuse and highlights coercive control and the other abusive factors that are domestically abusive.

Figure 29 - Power and Control Wheel – The Duluth Model



(Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 1984)

Nationally figures show approximately 6% of adults aged between 16-59 years experienced domestic abuse within 2022. Within Greater Manchester approximately 30 incidents/domestic abuse crimes occurred per 1000 people. Within Tameside as a rate of the population in 2022/23 inclusive the crude rate of domestic abuse related incidents is 19.6 per 1000 people. The majority of police recorded domestic abuse incidents are for a one-time offence (over 3/4 of those reported), however over a fifth are for the same repeat victim. In domestic abuse cases however it is rarely a one-time incident - it may only have been reported to police once but there are likely to have been more incidents. National estimates suggest there will be 35 incidents before a victim reports to someone (Office for National Statistics, 2018).

Within Tameside between April 2022 and March 2023 recorded by Greater Manchester Police:

- Domestic abuse accounted for 25.1% of all crimes.
- There were 4,441 domestic abuse related crimes committed and recorded (all age and all persons).
- Within any three month period, 23% of victims of domestic abuse are victims of multiple domestic offences and 29% of offenders are suspected of multiple domestic offences.
- 1,258 domestic incidents were recorded as having a child present.
- 808 cases were referred and discussed by Tameside Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), 338 were repeat referrals.

In addition most domestic abuse incidents are of coercive and controlling behaviours rather than physical violence, which could also contribute to the lower recorded rates. In Tameside the rate of Domestic Abuse incidents was significantly higher in the early 2010's. In recent years there has been a borough wide focus by agencies to reduce and tackle domestic abuse and to support victims of domestic abuse within Tameside; this includes work around stalking and harassment, forced marriage, honour-based violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

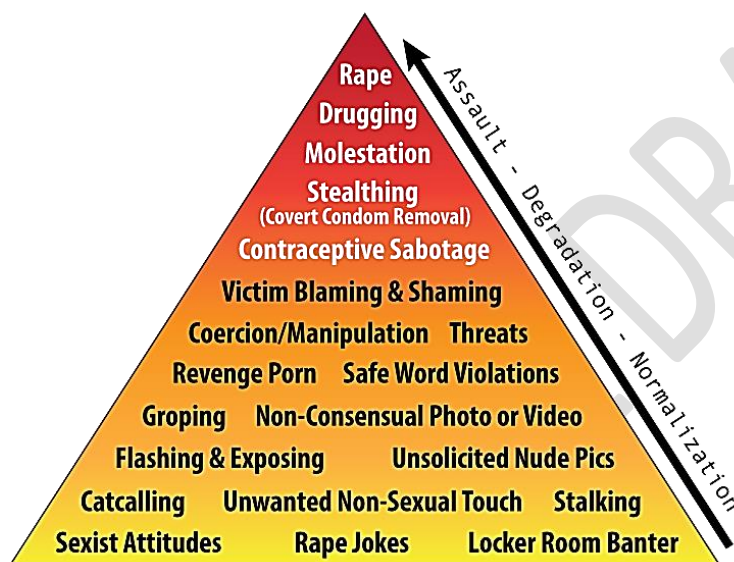


In relation to serious violence, domestic abuse has been identified as a risk factor in all violent crimes and is a key driver in a high proportion of the recorded knife crime in Tameside.

### Sexual Violence

The World Health Organization state sexual violence is a global issue with significant public health, human rights, and gender equality implications. It places large burdens on individuals' health and wellbeing, as well as local communities, public services, and wider society. Efforts to understand, prevent and respond to sexual violence have increased in recent decades, and various factors have been identified as increasing, or mitigating risks of harm. (World Health Organization, 2021). Figure 28 below helps to illustrate behaviours that start early and can self-reinforce/perpetuate behaviours that can lead to sexual violence and assault.

Figure 30 - Rape Culture Pyramid – Cervix & Jamie Chandra 2018



(Jamie Chandra and Cervix, 2018)

The number of sexual offences recorded by Greater Manchester Police rose by 41% from 2020 to 2021, including a 26% rise in reported rapes, with 11,700 sexual offences reported in 2022. About half of all sexual offences are reported within a day or a week. However, it should be noted that a substantial proportion of reported sexual offences are historic (26% are reported more than a year after the offence, rising to 35% for rapes), and this does not necessarily reflect the volume of offences being committed over the same time period. Despite this, the number of unreported sexual offences means these figures are a significant underestimate of the number of victims across Greater Manchester (Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, 2022/23). The picture in Tameside broadly reflects the Greater Manchester position with the rate per 1,000 population of sexual offences being 3.3 per 1,000 in Tameside and 3.6 per 1,000 in Greater Manchester.

### Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls is a broader issue than domestic abuse and has a substantial impact within Tameside. It encompasses a range of forms, including physical violence, sexual violence, emotional and psychological abuse, and more. Numerous studies, reports, and academic research have highlighted the prevalence and impact of violence against women and girls. The nature of gender-based violence is rapidly changing with increases in online stalking and threatening behaviour, cyberbullying, misogyny and homophobia, the sharing of explicit images, revenge porn, or the manufacturing of evidence against victims (Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 2021). Within Tameside work has been ongoing to highlight the scale of violence against women and girls, with domestic abuse and rape offences in the borough proportionately being perpetrated against females.

## Domestic Related Homicide

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are conducted in the United Kingdom to examine cases where someone has been killed as a result of domestic violence. They are carried out under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. The purpose of a DHR is not to establish culpability or responsibility but to understand what happened and how agencies and professionals can improve their responses to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Within Tameside there is a robust process for the completion and dissemination of learning from DHRs, which sits under the Community Safety Partnership. While the specifics of individual cases might not be publicly disclosed, reports, findings, and recommendations from these reviews, which have been anonymized to maintain confidentiality, are shared widely across public services to support understanding around improving agency responses and how to tackle domestic abuse and related risk factors in future practice. This provides the opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of support for victims of domestic abuse and how to tackle domestic abuse in a broad sense, including upstream prevention and perpetrator responses.

## Possession of Weapons

This includes any object that can be used as a weapon, the most common being knives and firearms. There are additionally two methods of this crime being recorded – through REGINA based (stop and search) and through use of the weapon (victim based). The figure below highlights the types of weapons used in victim-based crime with a possession or use of a weapon.

Figure 31 - Victim Based Possession of Weapons – Examples of Weapons Used

Knife	Axe	Air Rifle	Crossbow	Shoes
Firearm	Metal Bar	Knuckle Duster	CS Gas	Spanner
Bat	Car	Scissors	Meat Cleaver	
Machete	Crowbar	Taser	Needle	
Hammer	Bottle	Cosh	Nun Chucks	
Sword	Screwdriver	Glass	Plastic	

Throughout all of the serious violence offence areas, this is by far the highest ranking for Tameside within Greater Manchester for offences taken place (Tameside ranks as 5<sup>th</sup> in each of the Greater Manchester localities overall), which indicates a relatively higher risk and incidence of weapons offences in Tameside compared to other issues and contributing factors. There are no obvious reasons in the data to understand why possession of weapons is so prevalent in Tameside and the data suggests Sunday being the worse day for an incidence and this offence seems to be carried out during the daylight hours which is contrary to most other forms of serious violence offence. In addition, serious violence with weapons offences is on an upward trajectory and therefore is likely to get worse (Greater Manchester Police, 2022). In relation to gender both victims and offenders are most likely to be male (73% and 87% respectively). When looking at ages the majority of offenders between the ages of 16 and 44 (70%). In relation to victims ages, just under a quarter of all victims were babies under the age of 1. Wider evidence suggests that the peak age for carrying a weapon is 15 years old, therefore these trends around weapon offences are likely linked to younger people, particularly males (Public Health England, 2019). Alongside this trend, there has also been an increase in the use of weapons in violent incidents resulting in injury.

## Knife Related Crime

As an area that has been discussed and highlighted within the media, although part of the other sections of serious violence, knife crime is being discussed as a separate element for the purpose of this needs assessment. Knife related crime has only recently been adopted within Greater Manchester Police and specifically within Tameside as an operational priority in February 2023, so more detailed data is limited will become available in the months and years to come. In 2022 (Greater Manchester Police, 2022) outlined what proportion of knife crime offences related to serious violence categories.

**Figure 32 - Knife Violence Categories**

Offence Category	Proportion of Knife Crime 2022
Violence with injury	34.47%
Robbery of personal property	26.09%
Possession of weapon offences	25.16%
Violence without injury	8.70%
Robbery of business property	4.66%
Rape	0.31%
Homicide	0.31%
Other sexual offences	0.31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

While knife-related crimes are a lower proportion of all violent crimes or weapons offences, levels of knife crime have been consistent in recent years in Tameside. The majority of knife-related crimes in Tameside in the most recent data for 2022 are relating to violence with domestic abuse as a driver and most of these incidents did involve injury to the victim. The next highest category and driver was personal robbery of vehicles. See figure 32.

**Collective Based Violence**

Collective violence refers to violence committed by larger groups of individuals and can be subdivided into social, political and economic violence. (World Health Organization, 2023). Collective violence that is committed to advance a particular social agenda includes crimes of hate committed by organised groups, terrorists acts and mob violence. Political violence includes war and related violent conflicts, state violence and similar acts carried out by armed groups. Economic violence includes attacks motivated by economic gain.

**Modern Slavery**

Modern slavery is the term for all forms of slavery, human trafficking and exploitation. It is a wide-ranging crime area which covers forced marriage, forced labour, child criminal and sexual exploitation, human and drug trafficking. Additionally, these crimes are predominately hidden with victims often unable to come forward due to fear or shame, or because they are unable to leave their situation. The true nature of the problem around modern slavery and identifying the number of victims is challenging due to widespread underreporting of this set of crimes. Numbers within Tameside remain low in this area (Greater Manchester Police, 2022) with a downward trend also observed over time. Currently of all cases open within Greater Manchester classified as modern slavery, Tameside accounts for a 5% of the overall demand of Greater Manchester Police (GMP). The peak of all reported cases in Tameside was in 2020 during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Modern slavery covers a wide range of serious violence offences. Figure 33 below shows the percentage breakdown of all modern slavery cases in Tameside by crime type for 2022.

**Figure 33 - Cases of Modern Slavery Reported – Percentage by Crime Type**

Overview of 2022 offences	Percentage of cases
Offences involving transportation/storage/supply of drugs	67%
Offences involved Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)	56%
Offences involving the transportation of a foreign national (suspected human trafficking)	17%
Offences with DA marker	11%
Offences involving sexual exploitation	11%
Offences involving slave labour	6%

The data in the figure above highlights that the majority of modern slavery cases reported in Tameside involve the transportation/storage/supply of drugs. This provides an opportunity to link strategic approaches to tackling drug markets and enforcement, as per the national drug strategy, *From Harm to Hope* to work to

reduce violence and modern slavery. It should also be noted about victims of modern slavery over the last 5 years in Tameside, GMP report a disproportionate percentage are from an ethnic minority background (49%), with only 51% being from a white British background. Additionally, almost three quarters of victims are female and the most common age group is the 16–24-year-old age bracket accounting for 42% of victims. While there is variation in modern slavery incidents, due to relatively low numbers in Tameside, there is some evidence of seasonality, with slightly higher reporting in the summer (July). Children and young people living in areas with higher socioeconomic deprivation are at greater risk of modern slavery and targeting by adult offenders (Greater Manchester Police, 2022).

### Ageing Well and Serious Violence

Nationally and within Tameside there is an ageing population, therefore with larger older populations there may be an increased prevalence of elder abuse. The World Health Organization defines the abuse of older people, also known as elder abuse, is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. This type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and includes physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse; financial and material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious loss of dignity and respect. (World Health Organization, 2022). Various organisations are working together to help prevent adult abuse in Tameside and are responsible to the [Tameside Adults Safeguarding Partnership](#) Board. Taken from the Safeguarding Adults Collection return local authorities produce, the below chart highlights the current rate of reports of adult safeguarding concerns and subsequent investigations conducted by Tameside council over time.

Figure 34 - Rate per 100,000 of Safeguarding Adults Concerns Raised

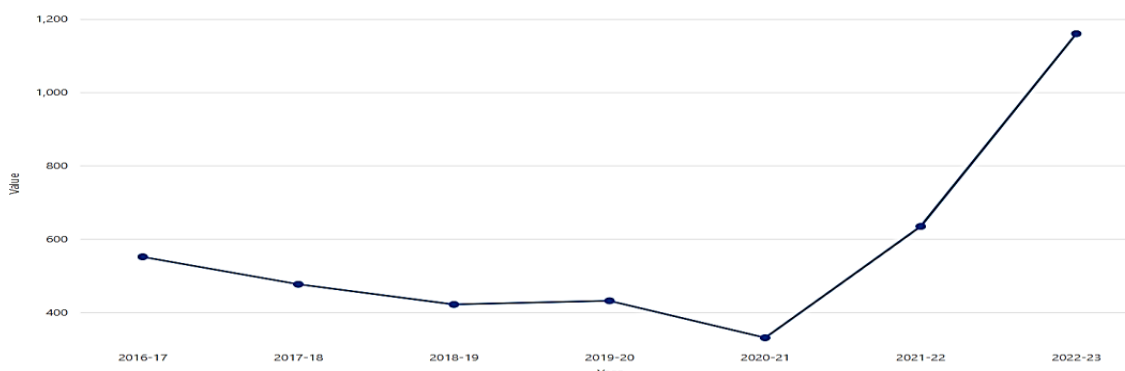
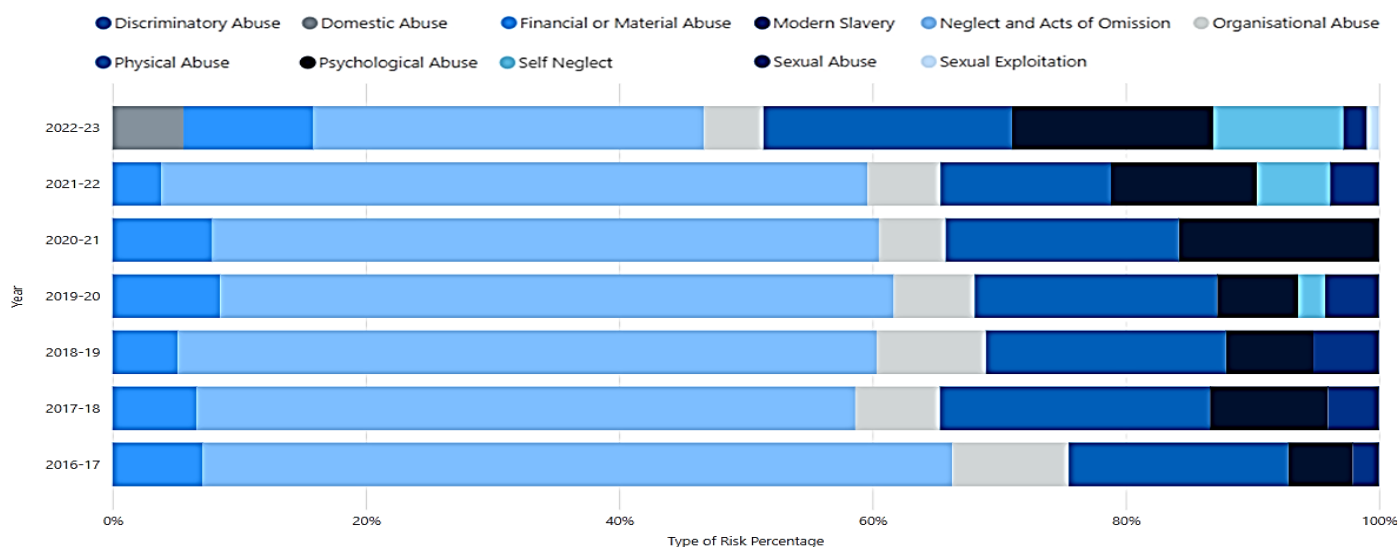


Figure 35 - Safeguarding Adults Concern Section 42 - Raised by Year and Type of Concern



The total number of safeguarding reports received has been increasing over time and in addition the types of concern have also changed over time. In the most recent year 2022/23 nearly 20% of concerns were due to physical abuse, and a further 16% due to psychological abuse. In addition for the first time almost 3% of the reports were due to either sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. It is important to note that elder abuse can occur in both community and institutional settings (such as nursing and care homes).

Tameside was always an outlier in relation to safeguarding concerns; one of the lowest levels in the region and nationally. Tameside was also on a downwards trajectory year on year whilst the national picture was an upwards trajectory. Therefore the safeguarding process was updated in February 2022 and the investment in developing safeguarding practice locally through training and specialist roles. A lot of work was carried out to realign the process with national guidance on reporting/recording safeguarding concerns and those that go on to be a Section 42. The increase we have seen brings us in line with our statistical neighbours. Additionally the increases in reports seen in recent years may also be linked to service level reports of an increase in residents who are described as having multi-disadvantage. These may be people who experience multiple complex health and care issues who have a number of vulnerabilities, and a high proportion are involved in the criminal justice system.

### What is Currently Happening In Tameside – Protective Factors

Within Tameside there have been many active projects to tackle poverty, substance misuse, low level violence, self-inflicted violence and interpersonal and collective violence. These projects include:

- [Poverty Needs assessment and Strategy](#) – which provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges and priorities for Tameside in building resilience and tackling poverty in the borough. This includes the ‘One Pot at a Time’ (slow cooker project) – Loans of slow cookers which were set up as a response to the cost-of-living crisis so residents have access to an affordable way to make nutritious meals for themselves and their families. More information can be found [here](#).
- Suicide Prevention – An audit of suicides with the South Manchester Coroner’s office has recently been completed to further understand risk factors around suicide and this is being used to inform the update of the Tameside Suicide Prevention Strategy, which is currently being reviewed. The Shining a light on Suicide campaign, runs across Greater Manchester and aims to provide information to help those bereaved by suicide or those dealing with suicidal thoughts. More information can be found [here](#).
- Be Well Service – a free service for all adults who live, work or volunteer in Tameside or who are registered with a Tameside GP. The service offers support to make positive lifestyle changes such as stopping smoking, weight management, healthy eating, reducing salt, sugar and caffeine, increasing physical activity and alcohol awareness. More information can be found [here](#).
- Domestic Abuse Support – Including the specialist support service commissioned by the council, supporting victims of domestic abuse. Also including wider support services to deliver on the duties outlined in the DA Act (2021). Specific programmes to provide target hardening to keep people safe in their own homes; support in safe accommodation and refuge provision; specialist provision in GP surgeries (IRIS) and in other healthcare settings (IDVA in hospital and sexual health service). More information can be found [here](#).
- Take Control - this campaign is specifically informed by women from the South Asian community in regard to Domestic Abuse. More information can be found [here](#).
- Cut it out campaign - targets hairdressers, beauty salons and barbers with training being delivered to students and key staff to support concerns around Domestic abuse. More information can be found [here](#).
- Domestic Abuse Champions Network – domestic abuse training to support voluntary organisations, faith sector groups and community groups in recognizing and responding to domestic abuse. More information can be found [here](#).

- Preventative work in schools to tackle violence against women and girls - Providing holistic healthy relationships education in addition to resources already commissioned to support RSE in schools (tough cookies) Tameside council have commissioned two Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) pilots. More information can be found [here](#).
- White Ribbon Accreditation – Tameside council currently holds white ribbon accreditation. White Ribbon is a national campaign in which men and boys take a stand against violence against women and girls. More information can be found [here](#).
- Young Parent Support Groups – This includes Young Mums – this is a peer support group aimed at Mum’s under 25 which is facilitated by Homestart and the Early Attachment team. Wrigglers and Giggles a support group facilitated by the Family Nurse Partnership within the Family Hubs. More information can be found [here](#).
- Road to Recovery (Action Together) – This group is facilitated by Action Together and focuses on learning various coping strategies that can be used to manage mental health. This group is for women of any age living in the Tameside area. More information can be found [here](#).
- Sexual health services. More information can be found [here](#).
- ADVISE – Assessing for Domestic Violence and Abuse in Sexual Health Environments: sexual health practitioners are trained to identify patients that have, or have had, experienced domestic abuse and historical sexual abuse/assault; an Advocate Educators based in the sexual health service is then able to offer emotional and practical support tailored to each patient based. More information can be found [here](#).
- Trust Engagement Group – group of Domestic Abuse survivors who meet to discuss and shape services around Domestic abuse through lived experience.
- Programme Challenger - collaborative approach to tackling serious and organised crime across Greater Manchester, preventing harm, and delivering a victim focused response. More information can be found [here](#).
- Adults Safeguarding Partnership Board - ensures local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area from abuse. More information can be found [here](#).

# Recommendations

‘The Duty requires the following specified authorities within a local government area to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence

- Police
  - Chief Officers of police for police areas in England and Wales
- Justice
  - Probation Services
  - Youth Offending Teams
- Fire and Rescue
  - All fire and rescue authorities operating in England and Wales
- Health
  - Integrated Care Boards in England
- Local authorities
  - A district council
  - A county council in England.’

(Home Office, 2020)

This strategic needs assessment on serious violence has highlighted the current available information and data for Tameside, taking a system-wide approach to understand the full pathway of violence throughout the life course. This work has also drawn on the needs assessment completed for Greater Manchester by the VRU. The following summarises and categorises the recommendations according to the key findings and insights from this Strategic Needs Assessment.

## [Recommendations from the Tameside Serious Violence Needs Assessment](#)

### [Partnerships](#)

- The relevant specified authorities in Tameside, via the Tameside Community Safety Partnership, should continue to support and engage with the work of the GM Violence Reduction Unit Partnership, particularly engaging with the community-led aspects of work within the VRU.
- The strategic plan to prevent and reduce serious violence across the specified authorities in Tameside should align to wider strategies which have cross-over which are already in place within the borough. Examples include the Community Safety Strategy; Building Resilience, Tackling Poverty Strategy; Children & Young Peoples Plan; Early Help Strategy; Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Locality Plan; Domestic Abuse Strategy; and Inclusive Growth Strategy
- Share best practice insight from programmes in place in Tameside which demonstrate evidence of effective approaches to tackle serious violence and risk factors, with a particular focus on sharing and collaboration across the Tameside Community Safety Partnership, and with neighbouring GM boroughs, including the GM VRU.
- Joint work should be undertaken between the Tameside Community Safety Partnership and the Tameside Adults Safeguarding Partnership Board to better understand the multi-disadvantage cohort to explore effective partnership approaches to support individuals and put trauma-informed approaches in place.
- Further develop intelligence and insight around sexual violence in Tameside. This should include improved data collection regarding reported incidents and better sharing of relevant issues and pathways across key partners in the local system. This should particularly focus on gaps in knowledge around Rape and Sexual Assault.

### [Children & Young People](#)

- There should be a continued focus on children and young people as they are at greatest risk of being a victim of violence, which has devastating consequences into adulthood. This should include prioritising those who may be at most risk of being targeted by adults, older peers and within their own communities.
- Develop targeted support for younger pregnant women and mothers, who may be at increased risk of domestic abuse and wider forms of violence.
- Develop targeted support for lone parents on lower incomes, particularly young women. This should be across the prevention spectrum, from contraception through to parenting, welfare and employment support.
- Understand the impact of the implementation of the Greater Manchester Adolescent Safeguarding Framework in Tameside (as one of the three pilot areas across GM alongside Trafford and Stockport) and support wider delivery across GM.
- Embed early approaches to tackle problematic behaviours which can escalate into violence as per the 'pyramid of sexual violence' with a focus on supporting education in schools around respectful relationships and tackling misogyny and violence against women & girls (VAWG).
- Join up delivery of Family Hubs with the *Building Resilience, Tackling Poverty* Strategy for Tameside to improve access to support to alleviate poverty for families across Tameside.



- In response to the over-representation of young males in a range of violent crime measures, including being victims and perpetrators, programmes of work across the Tameside Community Safety Partnership and in conjunction with the GM VRU should have a focus on youth crime prevention.

### Education

- Positive educational engagement is a protective factor against violence. There should be a joint focus in Tameside on good attendance and engagement with education settings via the Tameside Attendance Strategy; and on ensuring that efforts are made in education settings to instill education, reduce NEET, suspensions and permanent exclusions and awareness raising around respectful relationships and reducing early signs of violent behaviour.

### Communities

- Work should take place across communities in Tameside to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying weapons. With a focus on young people but across all age groups. This should be specifically considered in domestic abuse perpetrator programmes (due to the high proportion of knife crimes associated with domestic abuse incidents); in relation to targeted work with young people (particularly males); and as part of universal promotional campaigns.
- Given the high levels of wider alcohol harm in Tameside and the high rate of violent crimes with drugs and alcohol as a risk factor, work should continue to tackle drug and alcohol harms across the borough, with a focused approach from the Tameside Community Safety Partnership. This should particularly prioritise tackling the wide availability of alcohol in Tameside (density of licensed premises and volume of sales, via licensing processes); and providing adequate support for those affected by harmful drug and alcohol use.
- As drug and alcohol misuse are risk factors for being a perpetrator of serious violence, and that the majority (77%) of the violent crime probation caseload is reported to have a substance misuse issue, particular focus on addressing substance misuse treatment needs in this cohort should be put in place via local drug and alcohol treatment services.
- Based on an increasing trend of domestic abuse in older people, the Tameside Community Safety Partnership and relevant groups (eg. Domestic Abuse Steering Group) should ensure a specific programme of work is in place to identify and address the risk of domestic abuse among older victims.
- Interventions and awareness raising should be put in place to address groups who are at greater risk of being victims of serious violence including young males; people living with physical and learning disabilities; drug users; ethnic minority communities; and people in other minority groups including LGBTQ+.
- There should be a focussed programme of work involving awareness raising, engagement and enforcement around the main town centres in Tameside, particularly Ashton-under-Lyne Town Centre, Stalybridge Town Centre, Hyde Town Centre and Hattersley Town Centre in response to the high proportion of violent crime reported in these locations.
- Discussions should take place within Tameside communities around lived experience, what serious violence means to local people and embedding collective community voice into the actions taken at a local level to tackle these issues in Tameside through the local serious violence strategy.
- There should be a greater understanding across all partners regarding the relationship between violence and neurodiversity, special education needs and/or disability so that collaborative solutions can be determined.

### Data & Information Sharing

- Work needs to take place with all partners to further understand the data around the high level of weapons offences recorded in Tameside including better understanding of the criteria included in the crime measure

- A full review of evidence to support cumulative impact policies for alcohol licensing and a review of the licencing application representation toolkit, including updated data and information around off-licence and off premises sales, which could be further contributing to acts of serious violence.
- Create a Tameside Community Safety Partnership data dashboard as a resource to monitor serious violence moving forward, with the capability of identifying potential increases in violent crime
- Review where Tameside performs well on metrics such as for violent robbery to understand what is working and why Tameside is not following the trends of other Greater Manchester authorities.

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