

Report to:	Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Streetscene and Neighbourhoods
Relevant officer:	Lisa Arnold, Assistant Director of Community and Environmental Services (Community and Wellbeing)
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Paula Burdess, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Streetscene and Neighbourhoods
Date of decision:	

Serious Violence Strategy and Action Plan

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To highlight the recent sign-off and adoption of the Serious Violence strategy and associated action plan, by Blackpool Bsafe – Blackpool’s Community Safety Partnership.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the report and adoption of the strategy and action plan by the Community Safety Partnership

3.0 Reason for recommendation(s)

- 3.1 To have awareness that the Community Safety Partnerships has taken steps to meet its statutory duties recently introduced by Central Government under the Serious Violence Duty.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? No

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered

- 4.1 None – it is a statutory duty for every Community Safety Partnership to have a Serious Violence Duty and action plan

5.0 Council priority

5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:

- 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool'
- 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

6.0 Background and key information

6.1 The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.

6.2 The Duty requires specified authorities for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area. The authorities involved are:

- Police
- Justice (Probation Service and Youth Offending Teams)
- Fire & Rescue
- Health
- Local Authority

6.3 The statutory authorities meet regularly through the Community Safety Partnership and therefore it was agreed by all partners that the Serious Violent Disorder Strategy and action plan along with the ongoing monitoring of progress would form part of the Community Safety Partnership's remit.

6.4 The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network produced a Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy (Appendix A) which has been adopted by the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership. In addition, a District Needs Assessment specifically for Blackpool has been produced (Appendix B) which identifies the key challenges for the town in relation to serious violence.

6.5 The Serious Violent Disorder Action Plan (Appendix C) for Blackpool was produced following a multi-agency workshop held in November 2023, where challenges and opportunities were discussed. Using the Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy, District Needs Assessment and key themes from the workshop, a draft action plan was produced.

6.6 The Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy and the Blackpool Serious Violence Duty Action Plan were formally agreed and adopted by the Community Safety Partnership on Wednesday 28 February 2024.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of appendices

Appendix A - Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy

Appendix B - District Needs Assessment - Blackpool

Appendix C - Blackpool Serious Violence Duty Action Plan

8.0 Financial considerations

8.1 No additional core resources are required to deliver actions outlined within the plan. However a number of actions are reliant on securing external funding.

9.0 Legal considerations

9.1 The adoption of the Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy and creation of a Blackpool Serious Violence Action Plan ensures that the listed authorities, including Blackpool Council meet the obligations set out within the Serious Violence Duty.

10.0 Risk management considerations

10.1 The actions within the action plan are intended to reduce serious violence across the town, using data to inform a targeted approach.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people

11.1 Reducing the instances of serious violence across Blackpool will reduce the risk to and improve the life experiences of young people.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken

13.1 Multi-agency stakeholder workshop informed the content of the Serious Violence Action Plan. Consultation undertaken with members of the Community Safety Partnership.

14.0 Background papers

14.1 [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

ONLY APPLICABLE FOR REPORTS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE/CABINET MEMBER

15.0 Key decision information

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chair consultation (where appropriate)

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable)

18.1

19.0 Executive decision

19.1

20.0 Date of decision

20.1

21.0 Reason(s) for decision

21.1

22.0 Date decision published

22.1

23.0 Executive Members in attendance

23.1

24.0 Call-in information

24.1

25.0 Notes

25.1