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**Blaenau Gwent**

Our Ref./Ein Cyf.  
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.  
Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

**THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

9th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee will be held via MS Teams on Tuesday, 16th April, 2024 at 9.30 am (if you wish to view the meeting please contact michelle.hicks@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann  
Interim Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

**Pages**

**1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION**

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

**2. APOLOGIES**

To receive.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive any declarations of interests or dispensations

4. **ACTION SHEET**

3 - 6

To receive.

5. **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

7 - 10

To consider the decisions of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

***(N.B. The decisions are submitted for accuracy points only).***

6. **SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY**

11 - 72

To consider the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.

To: Councillor M. Cross (Chair)  
Councillor R. Leadbeater (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor S. Behr  
Councillor K. Chaplin  
Councillor G. A. Davies  
Councillor J. Gardner  
Councillor W. Hodgins  
Councillor L. Parsons  
Councillor D. Rowberry

All other Members (for information)  
Interim Chief Executive  
Chief Officers

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

**Action Sheet - Place Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Meeting	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
05.09.23	<p><b>Item 7: Community Services and Regeneration Directorate Performance End of Year report 2022/23</b></p> <p><b>Solar Car Parking:</b> Members enquired if any research had been undertaken in Blaenau Gwent. Officer to undertake a desk top research and provide information to Members.</p>	Amy Taylor	<p>Due to current resources the team have not yet been able to undertake the market testing for the solar car parking. This will now be undertaken in 2024.  <b>Action Update: 20.12.23</b></p>
05.12.23	Members to receive feedback on the findings of the research once available.	Amy Taylor	
16.01.24	Provide an update on the desktop study and the pros and cons of different sites and brands.	Amy Taylor	
05.12.23	<p><b>Item 5 – Action Sheet</b></p> <p><b>Six Bells Colliery:</b> In relation to the Six Bells Colliery site – when was the first expression of interest made.</p>	Owen Ashton	<p>The first expression of interest from Melin Homes for the Six Bells site was in September 2021.  <b>Action Complete: 07.12.23</b></p>
16.01.24	Progress update to be provided on <b>Six Bells Colliery site</b> to include discussions regarding Social Services provision.	Ellie Fry / Owen Ashton	<p>Social Services looked at the site in 2021/22 for child provision (Families First) to be included in any development. This needed to be modelled on site, the provision has now been accommodated elsewhere.</p>

Date of Meeting	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
16.01.24	<p><b>Item 6: Regeneration and Community Services 6-month Progress Performance Report – April 2023 – September 2023</b></p> <p><b>Business Startup:</b> Provide figures or graphs on how many startups have been supported and how long those businesses continue. The information then to be provided in future performance reports.</p>	Moe Forouzan	<p><b>Enterprise Facilitation</b>  The Enterprise Facilitation project was relaunched in June 2023. Enterprise Facilitation is a free, informal, and confidential service for aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners within Blaenau Gwent. The Enterprise Facilitation® model places no time constraint on an Enterprise Facilitator's time or length of support available, which means clients will always have access to the form of support needed, as and when issues arise.</p> <p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>No of active clients – start up      78  No of active clients – existing      20  No of enquiries closed      27  No of referrals made to internal and external partners  40  No of new businesses started      8  No of drop-in sessions/business clinics arranged  10  No of external business events/clinics attended 6  No of external meetings/intros      22  No of Internal meetings/Intros      6  Digital engagement – no of posts and PR uploaded to SM.      96  No contacts identified for VRP (skills gap audit) 10  No of VRP secured 4  During the first 6 months of 2023 (April – Sept) BGCBC financially supported 7 new business to start ups</p> <p>No of Applications approved 10.5  Amount of grant approved £5,874.44  Total number of jobs projected 7</p>

Date of Meeting	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	<p><b>Footfall in town centres:</b> Provide more narrative and correlation analysis on the factors affecting footfall and the difference between normal and event days.</p> <p><b>Destination Management:</b> Provide STEAM data figures and estimates of visitors and their interests.</p>	<p>Amy Taylor</p> <p>Alyson Tippings</p> <p><b>Action complete: 13.02.24</b></p>	<p>The businesses supported are in 4 of the 5 towns across the Borough and include service, retail and manufacturing sectors. Some are located within the town centres and some are home based until they have become established and are able to be sustainable in business premises.</p> <p>Business Sustainability query refer to link below:  <a href="https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Businesses/Business-Demography">https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Businesses/Business-Demography</a></p> <p><b>Action Complete: 13.02.24</b></p> <p>This will be provided in future quarterly performance reports with some details around how we monitor performance during events.  <b>Action Complete: 03.04.2024</b></p> <p>2022 STEAM report.- Headline figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Total economic impact of tourism £M66.48 % change on 2021 (£s 2022) 117.3%</li> <li>○ Total visitor days (000's) 921.51 % change on 2021 128.7%</li> <li>○ Staying visitor days (000's) 421.99 % change on 2021 149.8%</li> <li>○ Total visitor numbers (000's) 675.82 % change on 2021 125.5%</li> <li>○ Number of staying visitors (000's) 176.30 % change on 2021 168.3%</li> <li>○ Number of day visitors (000's) 499.52 % change on 2021 113.5%</li> <li>○ Number of FTE jobs supported by tourism spend 701 % change on 2021 104.1%</li> </ul>

Date of Meeting	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	<p><b>Waste and Recycling:</b> Update Members on the progress of the food waste campaign and the use of the education suite.</p>	<p>Matthew Stent</p>	<p><b>Food Waste Campaign:</b>  Food engagement campaign completed across 8 of the 14 recycling collection rounds. Increases in participation range from 12% to 21.3% with an average increase in participation of 15.76% across all 8 rounds. Final 6 rounds due to be completed by July 2024.</p> <p><b>Education Suite:</b>  Nappy Library are attending every third Friday of the month. John Mewett is arranging funding for transport for schools who would like to visit.</p> <p><b>Action Complete: 19.02.24</b></p>

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. CROSS (CHAIR)**

Councillors R. Leadbeater  
 S. Behr  
 K. Chaplin  
 G.A. Davies  
 J. Gardener  
 W. Hodgins  
 L. Parsons  
 D. Rowberry

**WITH:** Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services  
 Head of Community Services  
 Service Manager - Public Protection Services  
 Team Leader – Frontline Enforcement  
 Service Manager – Neighbourhood Services  
 Team Manager - Streetscene  
 Service Manager – Development and Estates  
 Service Manager – Policy and Partnerships  
 Team Manager – Trading Standards  
 Team Manager – Commercial Services  
 Team Manager – Regeneration Opportunities  
 Housing Solutions Manager  
 Policy Officer CCTV  
 Communications & Marketing Officer  
 Scrutiny and Democratic Officer

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>
<b>No. 1</b>	<b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b>
	It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.

<p><b>No. 2</b></p>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from the Service Manager – Business and Regeneration.</p>
<p><b>No. 3</b></p>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were raised:-</p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins Item No. 6 – Regeneration and Community Services 6 Month Progress Report (Employment and Skills – Aspire Programme)</p> <p>Councillor S, Behr Item No. 6 – Regeneration and Community Services 6 Month Progress Report (Housing – Tai Calon Board Member)</p>
<p><b>No. 4</b></p>	<p><b><u>PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>
<p><b>No. 5</b></p>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the action sheet.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the action sheet be noted.</p>
<p><b>No. 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGENERATION &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICES 6 MONTH PROGRESS PERFORMANCE REPORT – APRIL 2023 – SEPTEMBER 2023</u></b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein noted (Option 2).</p> <p>Councillors K. Chaplin, J. Gardener and D. Rowberry left the meeting at this juncture.</p>



No. 7	<p><b><u>OVERVIEW POSITION OF BLAENAU GWENT TOWN CENTRE CCTV ZONES 2023/24</u></b></p>
	<p>To consider the joint report of the Service Manager Policy and Partnerships and Policy Officer CCTV.</p>
	<p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and agreed the following recommendations:-</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the Place Scrutiny Committee considered the updated Codes of Practice for 2023/24 and recommended endorsement by the Cabinet (Option 1);</li> <li>(2) the Committee noted the current operating practices and arrangements with Caerphilly Council and IDS; and</li> <li>(3) the Committee agreed to consider the Annual Report 2023/24 as part of the committees forward work programme for 2024/25.</li> </ol>
No. 8	<p><b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</u></b></p>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report.</p>
	<p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the Scrutiny Committee made amendments to the topics scheduled for the meeting; suggested any additional invitees that the committee requires to fully consider the reports; and requested any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed. (Option 2)</p>

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# Agenda Item 6

*Cabinet and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Place Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **19 April 2024**  
Report Subject: **Serious Violence Duty**  
Portfolio Holder: **Helen Cunningham, Deputy Leader**  
Report Submitted by: **Sarah King, Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships**  
**Helena Hunt, Professional Lead Community Safety**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
Education DMT 11.03.24		04.04.24			16.04.24			CSP 08.04.24 Member Development 27.03.24

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the first Serious Violence Strategy and the key findings of its underpinning Strategic Needs Assessment in respect of Gwent and in particular, Blaenau Gwent.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a new statutory requirement referred to as the Serious Violence Duty, on 'specified authorities', which are:
- Local authorities
  - Police
  - Justice - Probation Services and Youth Offending Teams
  - Fire and Rescue Authority
  - Local Health Board
- 2.2 The Serious Violence Duty supported by statutory guidance ([here](#)) requires the above specified authorities to work together to plan to:
- prevent and reduce serious violence; including
  - identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area;
  - identify the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so); and
  - prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.
- 2.3 The Serious Violence Duty requires 'Relevant Authorities', which include Education Authority, Prison Authority and Youth Custody Authority, to collaborate with the afore-mentioned 'specified authorities', albeit not legally bound by it.

- 2.4 To complement the overarching Serious Violence Duty, amendments to [section 6](#) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ensures that the local Community Safety Partnership has an explicit role in evidence-based strategic action on serious violence.
- 2.5 Local areas are encouraged to adopt the World Health Organisation's definition of a Public Health approach, which is a science-based four-step process:
- a) **Identify or define the problem:** Normally this step includes data gathering to find out who, what, why, where and when.
  - b) **Identify any possible causes:** Look for evidence of factors that put people at risk of being a victim or perpetrator of violence and any factors that may prevent this from happening.
  - c) **Develop and evaluate interventions:** Use the data to design, implement and evaluate interventions to prevent crime.
  - d) **Scale it up:** If evaluation shows that the intervention works, then it should be scaled up across organisations, communities, police forces and across the whole of Wales, while continuing to evaluate for how well it continues to deliver and its cost-effectiveness.
- 2.6 Early in 2023, the representatives of the local specified authorities agreed to collaborate across the Gwent region to plan and prepare the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and produce the Serious Violence Strategy, supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as 'lead convener'.
- 2.7 The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Strategy were submitted to the Home Office by the given deadline of 31 January 2024. A short two-week consultation period commenced to meet other Home Office deadlines. The documents were circulated for consultation to the local Community Safety Partnership and Education Authority.
- 2.8 Grant funding for specified authorities is administered, on behalf of the Home Office, by the Gwent Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, who is responsible for allocating grant funding to support the local implementation of the Strategy.
- 2.9 Governance Arrangements
- 2.9.1 Regionally progress against the serious violence duty will be overseen by the Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Partnership. Locally, progress will be overseen by the Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.9.2 [Section 19](#) of the Police and Justice Act 2006 has been amended to ensure that local democratic scrutiny of crime and disorder matters, has been extended to include serious violence. This report and its appended Strategy and Strategic Needs Assessment supports the first steps for democratic scrutiny.

## 2.10 Inspection Regime

The statutory guidance notes the establishment of 'routine inspection programmes', and notes where the Secretary of State considers that a specified authority, or educational, prison or youth custody authority has failed to discharge certain serious violence duties they may issue directions to the responsible authorities for the purpose of securing compliance with the duty. However, the Secretary of State must obtain consent of the Welsh Ministers before giving a direction to a devolved Welsh authority.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 Option 1a: That Scrutiny consider the content of the Serious Violence Strategy and provide any observations.

Option 1b: That Scrutiny consider whether it would like to receive further progress reports covering serious violence by the Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Partnership.

### 4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

#### Corporate Plan

Effectively tackling serious violence demands strong partnership working. The strategic needs assessment helped build a picture of the complex interplays between people, place and space. Like the Corporate Plan the Serious Violence Strategy will inform an ambitious programme of activity for the Local Authority and its partners that will ensure the people of Blaenau Gwent are at the heart of all we do and we support our communities to thrive, which in turn improves the quality of life and well-being and increases the resilience of those who live, work and visit Blaenau Gwent where everyone is welcome and safe.

#### Statutory Responsibilities

Paragraphs 2.1 – 2.4 above identify the relevant legislative duties placed on the Local Authority and the other responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership as well as the relevant authorities.

#### Gwent Well-being Plan

The responsible authorities and relevant authorities who have statutory duties relating to Serious Violence have all been involved in preparing the Gwent Well-being Plan. The positive and negative impacts of Community Safety has been acknowledged throughout the document. One of the five 'steps' that will help the PSB achieve the two well-being objectives is '*Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe*' accepting that community safety will make significant contributions to both well-being objectives and the other four 'steps'.

## 5. Implications Against Each Option

### 5.1 *Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)*

### 5.2 *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

### 5.3 *Legal*

The statutory guidance notes the establishment of 'routine inspection programmes', and notes where the Secretary of State considers that a specified authority, or educational, prison or youth custody authority has failed to discharge certain serious violence duties they may issue directions to the responsible authorities for the purpose of securing compliance with the duty. However, the Secretary of State must obtain consent of the Welsh Ministers before giving a direction to a devolved Welsh authority.

### 5.4 *Human Resources*

The Serious Violence Duty will be mainstreamed across the Council departments, and therefore subsumed within core business of its staff. Therefore, there are no significant human resource issues to consider.

### 5.5 *Health and Safety*

The Strategic Needs Assessment noted that over the 5-year period (2018-23), reported incidents decreased from 26 to 24 annually, totalling 98 incidents. Predominantly occurring in an elderly residential home (79%), the victims, mainly care workers (74%), reported injuries such as scrapes and bumps. Social Services reported 93% of incidents indicating RIDDOR compliance.

However, it is understood that there is a significant underreporting of violence in the workplace. This will be considered as part of the regional and local work programmes.

## 6. Supporting Evidence

In response to the Serious Violence Duty, Gwent has focussed on eleven categories of serious violence:

- Homicide
- Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- Youth violence in public spaces
- Grievous bodily harm with intent
- Actual bodily harm
- Robbery
- Sexual violence
- Stalking harassment
- Arson with threat to life
- Assault on emergency workers

## 6.1 Performance Information and Data

The following key issues and findings are taken from the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

- The top 5 categories of violence crime in Blaenau Gwent are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with Intent, Weapon related crime, Rape & Sexual offences, and Bladed weapon crime.
- Blaenau Gwent has not recorded any homicide in the last 5-year period.
- Tredegar Central & west is the most common place for violent crime to take place.
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by over 50% in both rate and volume in the last 5-year period.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has remained consistent since 2018-19 except for 2020-21.
- Weapon related crime in Blaenau Gwent has shown a steady increase over the last 5-year period and crime involving a bladed weapon has increased in rate by 173% (n=0.85) and volume by 165% (n= 56).
- 44% (n= 312) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Blaenau Gwent were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Six Bells was 108% above the 5-year average volume of weapon crime in Blaenau Gwent in 2022/23 which is unusually high for that ward.
- The area of most concern in regard to weapon crime is Blaina where there was a total of 10 crimes in 2022/23 which was 2 ½ times more than the average in that area in the last 5 years. As are Sirhowy & Georgetown which have also seen a 2.5 x increase.  
in 2022/23 compared with the 5-year average.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen a significant increase since 2018-19 with a crime rate increase of 95% (n= 1.65) and a volume increase of 88% (n= 106).
- Victims of serious violence in Blaenau Gwent are White, Female and between 26 – 35 years old except for Weapon crime where a victim is most commonly Male and ABH with intent where the victim is most commonly under the age of 18.
- Offenders of violent crime in Blaenau Gwent are mostly White, Male and between 26 – 35 years of age.

## 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

Reduction in serious violence offences and offending. Increased confidence in the Local Authority to tackle serious violence. Increased confidence in local Policing and the local Community Safety Partnership.

## 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

In line with the Home Office requirements a consultation on the Serious Violence Strategy was undertaken. All specified authorities and relevant authorities were engaged and participated in the production of the Strategic Needs Assessment and subsequent Strategy.

**6.4 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

This first Serious Violence Strategy notes that in Gwent we are committed to securing the foundations required to establish a strategy which achieves our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence'. This interim strategy establishes what we need to put in place prior to setting out a longer-term strategy to prevent serious violence.

**6.5 Preventative focus**

The Serious Violence Duty supported by statutory guidance requires the above specified authorities to work together to plan to:

- prevent and reduce serious violence; including
- identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area;
- identify the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so); and
- prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

**6.6 Collaboration / partnership working**

The production of the Strategic Needs Assessment and the subsequent formulation of the Serious Violence Strategy has been undertaken by the 'specified authorities' linking with the 'relevant authorities' collaborating closely with the Gwent Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**6.7 Integration (across service areas)**

The Serious Violence Duty will be mainstreamed across the Council and therefore subsumed within core business of its staff.

**6.8 Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions**

**6.9 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)**

See Appendix B: Integrated Impact Assessment

**7. Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 Regionally progress against the serious violence duty will be overseen by the Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Partnership. Locally, progress will be overseen by the Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Partnership. The Community Safety Partnership will provide timely reports for democratic scrutiny.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Appendix A: Gwent Serious Violence Strategy

Appendix B: Integrated Impact Assessment



# Serious Violence Duty

## Interim Strategy for Serious Violence Prevention for Gwent 2024-25

*'A Gwent Without Violence'*

Developing our Strategic Framework for Action: 2024–2025



**Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service**

**Newport Youth Offending Service**



## Table of Contents

<b>Page Number</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	Title Page
2	Contents Page
3	Executive Summary
7	Introduction
9	Current Situation
13	Our Approach
15	Strategic Priority One
17	Strategic Priority Two
19	Strategic Priority Three
21	Strategic Priority Four
22	Concluding remarks
Appendix A	Theory of Change
Appendix B	Joining the Dots – Partner and Partnerships

## Executive Summary

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear in communities and results in wide-ranging social and economic costs to society, communities, families, and individuals. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales in recent years. In Gwent, unfortunately, we are witnessing the same pattern. To reverse this trend a whole-system multi-agency approach is needed with everyone working towards a shared strategic vision of 'A Gwent without violence'.

Our collective approach should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the current serious violence landscape in Gwent, the evidence-based prevention and early interventions required to reverse this trend, what interventions and services are currently available and then detail where further action is needed. This is supported by a clear understanding of mutually beneficial partnership and inter-partnership priorities all informed and developed through meaningful community insight.

In 2019 the UK Government announced impending new legislation introducing a Serious Violence Duty<sup>1</sup> ('the Duty') to ensure that all relevant services work together to share information to target local interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The Duty encouraged local areas to adopt a public health approach to addressing violence when developing the strategy. This is an approach 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.

In response to the Duty, a Serious Violence Prevention Working Group ('Working Group') was established by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as lead convener in Gwent early 2023. Membership of the Working Group includes relevant partners, as outlined in the Duty and known as 'Specified Authorities'. The first task for the Working Group was to develop a regional Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to fully understand the serious violence landscape in Gwent. This was the first regional SNA for Gwent and as such has been a huge task for partners, led by the OPCC.

The first Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) covers the five-year period 2018-19 to 2022-23 and was published on the same date as this interim strategy, as stipulated by the Duty, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The current iteration of the SNA highlighted that the level of serious violent crime has been steadily increasing in Gwent over the last five years. All five of our local authorities have

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<sup>1</sup> [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/serious-violence-duty) {accessed 22/12/23}

experienced increasing trends in serious violent crimes since 2019-20 when all crime was reduced due to the covid-19 pandemic.

In Gwent, there is currently no system in place to systematically collect regional and local partner serious violence data, which is compounded by a lack of dedicated data analytic resource to analyse and interpret the data shared. The current picture of serious violence in Gwent is therefore not complete, particularly regarding understanding and interpreting what the existing data tells us about where action is required. This imposes limitations on the effectiveness of setting longer-term priorities within the regional Strategy and local CSP delivery plans. To achieve our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence' we need a much better understanding of the serious violence landscape to inform our strategic direction that incorporates appropriate partner and partnership data.

This first Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Strategy therefore intentionally sets out the priorities to be achieved in 2024-25 which will enable time to address the data and intelligence gaps, which can then be used to refresh this Strategy from 2025 onwards. For 2024/25, four strategic priorities have been identified that will have enabling functions to establish the essential pillars upon which an effective Serious Violence Prevention strategy will be based:

***Strategic Priority One: Better use of data to inform action***

*In Gwent we will strive to achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence.*

- A data driven approach requires dedicated data analytical capacity, a robust regional data collection and analysis function, with appropriate governance. Opportunities to share current partner and partnership data, analytical capacity and expertise will be explored and if required new and dedicated data analytic resource funded. Once identified, minimum data sets will be agreed, and data flow systems established. Future SNAs will be strengthened by additional partner data, from sources such as individual agencies/specified authorities, Third Sector partners and local community insights. Wider partnership data would also strengthen future SNAs. This could include data from regional governance structures such as Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), Local Criminal Justice Board and Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board.
- This priority does not just meet the SV Duty in isolation, as there are clear links to wider CSP priorities, and the work of other partnerships (such as those above) impacting on serious violence across Gwent. This will require greater partner and partnership working, trust, and sharing of resources. This approach will provide the necessary intelligence to put in

place the most appropriate and targeted interventions to achieve reductions in serious violence.

***Strategic Priority Two: Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions***

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the causes of serious violence to enable us to consistently take an evidence-informed approach to preventing serious violence.*

- A consistent Gwent-wide approach is required to understand, prioritise, and apply evidence-base knowledge on the causes and the risk factors of serious violence. Whilst there is clear evidence of risk factors for perpetrators and victims of violence, which include age, gender, sexuality, education, social and cultural norms, mental health, substance use, and childhood trauma (ACEs) and that there are recognised repositories providing guidance on evidence-based interventions, this information is not systematically available, accessible, and applicable in the local context. Nor is this consistently referenced in partner and partnership plans.
- Future regional and local strategies and action plans will explicitly detail prevention and early intervention outcomes and the application of evidence-based interventions, supported by outcome measures which will be monitored and evaluated. Consideration of evidence-informed practice and robust monitoring and evaluation processes will be integral to future regional and local planning and commissioning.

***Strategic Priority Three: Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact.***

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the local landscape, as well as seeking to learn from activity and good practice in other areas within and outside Gwent.*

- To maximise the impact of greater partnership working, partnership collaboration and integration of services/resources to prevent serious violence, we need to join the dots. The statutory responsibility for community safety in each of our five local authority areas lies with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and each CSP has an action plan based on local SNA's. However, due to the scale of vulnerability and susceptibility factors that influence violence there are a wide range of regional and local partnerships and networks whose priorities also impact on preventing serious violence.

- These forums have been highlighted in the Appendices but include the Public Safety Board (PSB), VAWDASV Board, Local Criminal Justice Board, Strategic Housing Coordination Group, Gwent Safeguarding Board, and the Gwent Regional Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse (APB) – all of which have statutory responsibilities. There are several well-established local forums which address similar priorities, such as 'Youth Justice Management Boards' and emerging ones such as 'Gwent Serious Organised Crime Partnership Meeting'. The priorities and activities of all these forums must be considered to avoid duplication of effort, and instead amplify the efforts to achieve mutual goals.

***Strategic Priority Four: Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance***

*We will build on local experience and understanding of violence through a place-based approach which is supported by regional partnerships.*

- An effective response to serious violence needs to utilise local experience, as well as listening and responding to community voices. Across the region of Gwent, the Working Group agree that although there is a shared vision to prevent serious violence, the patterns of serious violence are not the same across our localities.
- Although specified authority partners have agreed to collaborate on a Gwent-wide strategy and support, serious violence prevention interventions and activities will also still be driven by local need and guided by local intelligence including community voices. Regional to local governance will need strengthening after considering the findings of the PSB's CSP review.

In Gwent we are committed to securing the foundations required to establish a strategy which achieves our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence'. This interim strategy establishes what we need to put in place prior to setting out a longer-term strategy to prevent serious violence.

## Introduction

### The Duty

In 2019 the UK Government announced legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty<sup>2</sup> ('the Duty') on a range of Specified Authorities<sup>3</sup>. The Duty ensures that all relevant services work together to share information to target local interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.

The Duty set out the specific requirements for:

- 'Specified Authorities' to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence "*including identifying the kind 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***"<sup>4</sup>.
- Local areas to set out their medium and long-term priorities, and subsequent actions/interventions required based on a **theory of change model** AND encouraged the adoption of the World Health Organisations' (WHO) definition of a **public health approach** to reducing violence<sup>5</sup> by using the WHO's four step framework<sup>6</sup>.

The Duty was introduced to address the devastating impact of serious violence on the lives of victims and families, fear in communities and the cost to society and communities. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales in recent years, which is mirrored in Gwent.

### The Local Response

In 2023, the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner initiated a Serious Violence Working Group, as lead convener, made up of representatives from Specified Authorities in Gwent. The Working Group was tasked with coproducing a regional Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

This is the first time that a regional SNA and Strategy have been produced in Gwent. Prior to 2024, broader community safety SNA's and strategies have been required to be produced on a Local Authority level by Community Safety

<sup>2</sup> [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) {accessed 22/12/23}

<sup>3</sup> Police, Justice (Probation and YOS), Fire and Rescue, Local Health Board, Local Councils in Wales

<sup>4</sup> WHO Definition of Serious Violence [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int) {accessed on 22/01/24}: "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group of community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation"

<sup>5</sup> Page 8 - [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

Partnerships, often through Wellbeing Plans under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. In Gwent there are five Local Authorities: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, and Newport, each now have Community Safety Partnership structures. Most CSPs in Gwent have only recently been reformed independent of the PSB's previous local Wellbeing Partnership structures.

The Public Health team within Gwent's local Health Board: Aneurin Bevan's University Health Board (ABUHB), led the development of this strategy in collaboration with Specified Authorities. Two partner workshops and a succession of Working Group and partner meetings, added to the available intelligence gathered in the SNA and guided the development of this interim strategy.

Our local vision has been agreed as: "**A Gwent without violence**". To achieve this vision requires a strategic approach based on a comprehensive understanding of the data, intelligence, evidence-base, partner and partnership priorities and community insight. This strategy identifies the initial key strategic priorities that are required to develop our understanding of existing data and intelligence, engagement with communities to seek their views and align and strengthen the maturing community partnership structures at both local and regional level in Gwent.

The strategy highlights actions for 24/25 which will provide the insight and impetus for what is needed to effectively reduce and prevent serious violence in Gwent.



## Current Situation

### Background

The Duty stipulates that a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) should provide the intelligence to inform the development of strategic priorities, with the detail of how these priorities are addressed being articulated in a local strategy. The local SNA should provide intelligence on:

- What kind of violence is taking place
- Who is affected by violence
- Where violence is happening
- When violence is happening
- And where possible, what interventions are needed

This is the first time a region-wide Serious Violence SNA and Strategy have been drafted in Gwent. The Duty required that both be completed by the 31st of January 2024, and as such the development of this strategy was based on an evolving version of the SNA.

### Gwent's 'definition' of Serious Violence

In Gwent, the agreed definition, or 'areas of focus', for serious violence have been identified as:

- Homicide
- Knife and gun crime
- Public space youth violence
- Youth violence in schools
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH)
- Robbery
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment
- Arson with threats to life
- Assaults against professionals.

This definition was agreed by the Gwent Serious Violence Duty Working Group, with representation from all Specified Authorities.

### Current picture in Gwent

#### *What?*

The Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment (2018-19 to 2022-23) has highlighted that the level of serious violent crime has been steadily increasing in Gwent over the last five years.

Serious violent crimes with the highest crime rate per 1 thousand population of Gwent are: '*stalking and harassment*', '*actual bodily harm*' and '*weapon related crime*.' In 2022/23, homicide reached its highest recorded level, and a significant increase has been seen in reported '*assaults on professionals*',

'robbery' and 'weapon offences (specifically bladed implements)'. NB: This is based on the current data set and does not include domestic violence data or crimes that are precursors to violence-related crime. This demonstrates the urgent and vital need for concerted and coordinated action within Gwent to achieve our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence'.

In developing this strategy, the specified authority partners agreed to collaborate with the Gwent Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Commissioning Board, to co-commission a consultant to complete a detailed analysis of the current sexual violence and domestic abuse picture across Gwent. This report is expected in Spring 2024 and relevant information will be added to this SNA at that time.

### *What and where?*

All five of our Local Authority areas include 'stalking and harassment' and 'actual bodily harm' in their top three recorded serious violent crimes. Four out of five of our Local Authorities: Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen, and Monmouthshire have also seen increases in homicides. The exception is Blaenau Gwent which did not have any homicides recorded. Blaenau Gwent's main recorded serious violent crimes were 'stalking & harassment', followed by 'ABH' and 'weapon related crime'.

Stalking and harassment accounts for the majority of recorded violent crime in Gwent, in terms of crime rates and volume. The recorded rate across Gwent for stalking and harassment has increased by 32% in the previous five years. Although all Local Authority areas recorded an increase in rates, the highest rate increases were recorded in Blaenau Gwent (57%), followed by Monmouthshire (48%) and Caerphilly (35%). More detailed analysis and narrative will be included in future iterations of data reports which will include consideration of VAWDASV data.

ABH is the second highest violent crime recorded in Gwent. Although the Gwent ABH recorded rates have been stable over the last five years, this picture masks the variation across the five Local Authority areas. There has been an increasing trend in four of our five local authority areas, which has been counteracted by the decreasing trend in Newport. Monmouthshire has seen the biggest increase in recorded ABH, with a rise of 11% over the last five years.

Weapon related crime is the third highest violent crime recorded in Gwent. It has shown a gradual increase in each of the 5 local authorities in Gwent. In 2022/23 Blaenau Gwent's weapon related crime rate has increased by 51%, Caerphilly 21%, Monmouthshire 20%, Newport 22%, and Torfaen 18%.

### *Who?*

For most violent crimes, the SNA currently indicates that victims and offenders, are of similar age: between 26-35, are white and male. This is slightly different

for homicides where victims are typically over 46 and offenders between 18-25. With stalking and harassment, victims are on average between 26-35 and female with the majority of recorded ethnicity as 'white'. Further data and analysis are required to fully understand this picture. Also, it is important to note when considering this data that it is based on the numbers of 'reported crimes' and there should be consideration on the groups of the population who are more likely and less likely to report crimes.

#### *When?*

Violent crime is recorded as being most frequently committed between the months of April and December, during the weekend and from 3pm to midnight. Most of the violent crimes are recorded as occurring around midnight. Going forward more detailed analysis and narrative will be produced in Problem Profiles which will give the detail necessary to drive activity locally. Such as details on location of crime (i.e. in homes, parks, licensed premises) which will enable more targeted initiatives and preventative projects.

#### *Why?*

There remain some data gaps which need addressing prior to undertaking a more detailed analysis of the data to understand the local serious violence landscape. For example, domestic/sexual violence data has not yet been incorporated in detail due to a standalone needs assessment being commissioned in partnership with the Gwent VAWDASV Board. Future iterations of the SNA will provide a more comprehensive data set, but this will require dedicated and sustained data analytic capacity.

A data driven approach, which incorporates analysis and narrative, complemented by a good understanding of the evidence base is an essential precursor to understanding why serious violence is occurring in our localities. Future iterations of the SNA will also provide a more comprehensive description of the vulnerability and risk factors and drivers of serious violence, providing the intelligence required to better understand why the patterns of serious violence are occurring across Gwent, as well as to identify effective preventative interventions.

The Duty states that an effective strategy considers other strategies/partnerships which have a role in preventing serious violence to ensure greater cohesion, partnership working and no duplication in effort and resources. This is a priority for future iterations of the SNA and Strategy.

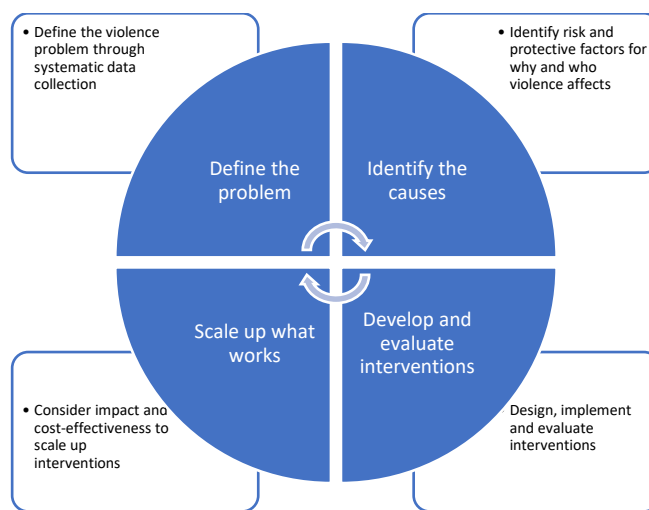
With this context, the Working Group agreed to the development of an interim strategy which outlines the key strategic priorities required to provide the intelligence, supported by appropriate governance, required to develop a long-term strategy to prevent serious violence in Gwent. There is a commitment to continuing to develop and improve the Gwent Serious Violence SNA and

Strategy, with partner agreement to review and update both documents within six months of publication, allowing time to consider the role of other local partnerships.

## Our Approach - How we will reduce serious violence in Gwent

As advised by the Duty, the Working Group agreed to adopt a public health approach to violence. This is an approach 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. This requires thinking about the *whole population* and *communities* rather than individuals with a move in focus from individual crimes to *impacts on families and communities*.

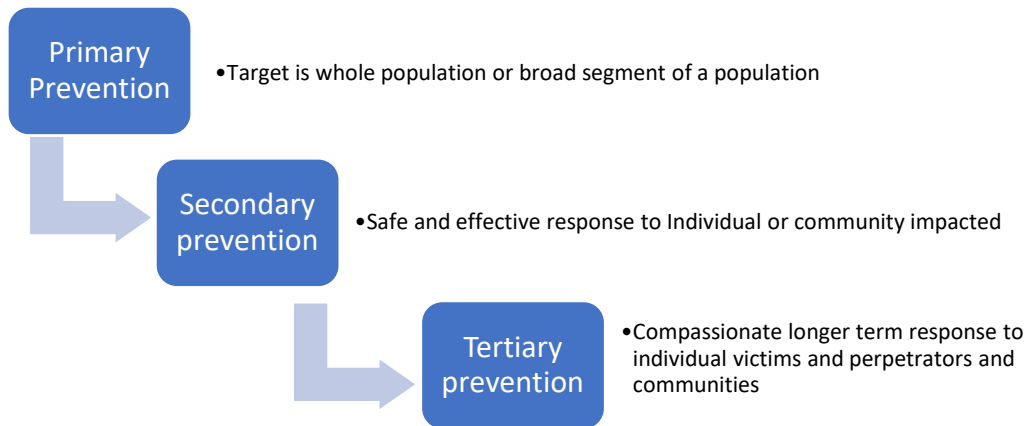
The Working Group agreed to use World Health Organisations framework: 'Four Steps approach'<sup>7</sup> which is guided by the principles of public health:



Firstly, there is a need to know the facts, working in partnership to understand and define the problem. This will require assessing underlying causes, risk and protective factors and include data, local intelligence, and community insight. Solutions then need to be explored by assessing evidence of 'what works' to prevent violence, and interventions designed. These interventions should be evaluated with those deemed effective and cost effective scaled up as necessary.

Prevention can be considered across three level: primary prevention which aims to prevent violence before it occurs; secondary prevention which focuses on the immediate response to violence and tertiary prevention which reduces harm after violence has occurred. Our local response will need to consider all these levels of prevention.

<sup>7</sup> [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](#) {accessed 05.01.24}



Essentially, our communities should be at the heart of all action to address violence. We will seek and consider the voices of our local communities in providing insights through our data and intelligence gathering. Their voices will provide the local context to risk and protective factors which we acknowledge will vary across Gwent as well as seek to ensure that any planned intervention is acceptable and appropriate.

## **Strategic Priority One - Better use of data to inform action**

*In Gwent we will strive to achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence.*

Despite the OPCC dedicating substantial data analytical resource to collate and analyse partner data for the first Gwent SNA, the current iteration of the SNA does not fully reflect all relevant data that is held and available to partners. There remains a need to better understand the current serious violence landscape by gathering and interpreting additional partner and partnership data, on an ongoing basis.

Specified Authorities have welcomed the increased flow of data resulting from the development of the first Gwent SNA. However, there is a need for wider partner data and more comprehensive data set which include, at a minimum, domestic violence data, and data analysis with narrative to enable interpretation of the data. There is acknowledgment that there is no system in place to receive and include qualitative data from partners and community members, or to identify potentially emerging issues.

To achieve this strategic priority there is a need to identify and develop a robust mechanism to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share partner data in a systematic, timely and sustainable way. The data set to be shared needs to be agreed but should include data from Specified Authority partners, local CSPs, wider partnership/forum data such as data from Public Safety Board (PSB), VAWDASV Board, Local Criminal Justice Board, Strategic Housing Coordination Group, Gwent Safeguarding Board, and the Gwent Regional Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse (APB). The Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment, and local community insight data will also provide rich sources of data. There is a vast bank of data and intelligence which could support the serious violence prevention agenda, and this data and access to it needs to be explored.

This will require dedicated data analytic resource, greater partner, and partnership collaboration and inclusion of community insight data. A system with appropriate governance will need to be identified.

The Working Group recognise that there is a wealth of data analytical capacity and expertise within Gwent, but currently this resource is allocated to working in siloes within their partner/partnership. Given the range of partners and partnerships that have a role to play in responding to serious violence prevention, the Working Group will explore the possibility of pooling this resource, before seeking any additional data analytical resource/mechanism. This is consistent with taking a whole system multi-agency approach to preventing serious violence. It is also in compliance with the requirement specified within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015<sup>8</sup> for

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<sup>88</sup> [42329 WBFEG Essentials Guide \(gov.wales\)](#) {accessed 24/02/24}

public bodies to demonstrate in their decision making that they are implementing the Five Ways of Working principles. 'Integration' is one of these principles, and exploring the pooling of partnership analytical capacity would demonstrate the implementation of these principles.

The Working Group are committed to better using partner and partnership data, shared local intelligence, and community insight to inform practice. Therefore, routinely sharing of agreed data between partners and partnerships, which is then analysed and interpreted will enable interventions to be based on a well-analysed and accurate picture of serious violence.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Agree data sets, and information to be shared systematically.
2. Identify opportunities across partners and partnerships (as detailed above and in Appendix B) to routinely and sustainability share data and information.
3. Agree a regional mechanism and/or role to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share data and information, from National to Regional to Local Level.
4. Identify dedicated and/or pooled data analytical capacity, and funding, if necessary, to analyse and present agreed data sets and information which inform planning and commissioning priorities.
5. Ensure appropriate Welsh Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI) agreements in place.



## **Strategic Priority Two: Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions**

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the causes of serious violence to enable us to take an evidence-informed approach to preventing serious violence.*

To enable the Working Group's agreed priority of more emphasis being placed on prevention and early intervention, there is a need for our understanding of the causes and the risk factors of serious violence and evidence-based responses to be demonstrated and applied to all local interventions.

In Gwent, we are committed to identifying drivers of serious violence and addressing these in an evidence-informed way, based on what cause people and communities to be more vulnerable and susceptible to the harms of violence.

There is clear evidence of risk factors for perpetrators and victims of violence, which include substance use, age, gender, sexuality, education, social and cultural norms, mental health, and childhood trauma (ACEs). Alongside significant academic literature, there is guidance for evidence-based approaches to prevent serious violence, available through several reputable repositories, such as the Wales Violence Prevention Unit, the ACE Hub Wales, the Wales Safer Communities Network, and the College of Policing. Understanding and applying this evidence is a core role of regional and local planning and commissioning, and the Working Group agree that this should be more transparent with partners being more accountable to apply this evidence.

Working Group partners are committed to applying evidence informed learning when planning and commissioning future intervention. The best available evidence of what works will be applied, along with testing new and innovative approaches. Routine monitoring and evaluating the impact of interventions will further contribute to the evidence base. In line with the public health approach to violence prevention using evidence to inform local solutions, monitoring and evaluation their impacts will be core practice.

Given that there is a complex interaction of factors that impact on serious violence, there will not be one solution, one agency or partnership that can prevent it. Understanding and addressing risk factors will require collaborative working. Although this will be time consuming and complex, it is essential to prevent serious violence. The benefits will be far reaching. For example, if the evidence base indicated investment in early years/parenting programmes to prevent serious violence, this could be beneficial for other programme priorities such as improving mental health and wellbeing, and reducing the susceptibility to addictions such as alcohol, drugs, and gambling.

The Working Group are committed to focusing greater effort on prevention and early intervention activities, guided by the evidence-base, which are monitored

and evaluated. Learning will be shared across partners and partnerships, and effective and cost-effective interventions will be rolled across our local authority areas proportionate to need.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Continually consider quality assured, published research and best practice of 'what works' when planning and funding interventions, as well as reviewing the effectiveness of core business and universal services.
2. Ensure all actions/interventions within local CSP strategies and plans are systematically underpinned by the best available evidence and include clear outcome measures and explicit evaluation methods.
3. Map where Prevention and Early Intervention is currently delivered at both Regional and Local levels, across partners and partnerships.
4. Source appropriate funding to introduce effective interventions based on available evidence and local learning.

### **Strategic Priority Three: Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact.**

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the local landscape, as well as seeking to learn from activity and good practice in other areas within and outside Gwent.*

The Working Group acknowledge the established Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) with statutory responsibility for community safety in each of our five local authority areas, each developing a local action plan based on local SNAs. We are also conscious that at the time of developing this interim strategy, a PSB review of the CSP landscape is currently in progress. However, the CSPs are not the only Boards which have a role to play in preventing serious violence.

Due to the scale of vulnerability and susceptibility factors that influence violence there are a wide range of regional and local partnerships, boards, and networks whose priorities and activities can play a role in the prevention of serious violence (Appendix B for a list).

Several well-established Forums/Boards, such as the PSB, VAWDASV, APB, have statutory responsibilities which impact on the prevention of serious violence, in addition to a wide number of established groups (see Appendix B for a list) and as well as the wider Specified Authority agencies. Established groups with similar priorities and actions which positively impact on the reduction and prevention of serious violence, such as VAWDASV, must be considered when developing future iterations of the of the Gwent Serious Violence SNA, Strategy, and action plans. This will avoid duplication and increase the impact of achieving mutual goals.

It is essential that we build on the collaborative working that already exists in Gwent, and clarify the structural governance arrangements, dependencies, and interdependencies between each partnership. To achieve our vision of preventing serious violence, we must focus efforts on inter-partnership as well as on increased partnership working to address the underlying risk factors for serious violence, which include poverty, homelessness, substance misuse. Some of these are outlined in the '*Building a Fairer Gwent: Improving Health equity and the Social Determinants*' report. Challenges and solutions are often interconnected which requires the alignment of delivery, policy, and strategy, and ultimately the commissioning of services and projects.

There already exists positive activity and interventions to address serious violence across Gwent. In addition to understanding the partnership landscape, there is also a need to better understand what is going on locally across the five local authority CSPs and Specified Authorities, to identify both good practice and gaps in existing service provision. This will provide an opportunity to scale up good practice interventions, proportionate to need.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Map and gap partner and partnership plans where collaboration could help prevent serious violence.
2. Align the governance for implementation of the Serious Violence Duty within the context of the PSB Community Safety review in Gwent.
3. Strive towards rationalising the partnership landscape where more effective delivery can be achieved.

## **Strategic Priority Four: Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance**

*We will build on local experience and understanding of violence through a place-based approach which is supported by regional partnerships.*

Across the region of Gwent, the agreed goal for all Specified Authorities is consistent: the 'prevention of serious violence'. However, the first iteration of the SNA, which is supported by local intelligence, indicates that the patterns of serious violence are not consistent across our localities.

Local intelligence is essential to develop a meaningful strategy which is effective at a regional and local authority level. Local intelligence must be supported by community insight to enable the development of appropriate responses informed by lived experience. The Working Group agree that interventions should be informed by ongoing and meaningful community engagement to provide local insight to guide appropriate responses. It is acknowledged that there is a need to seek to understand the voices of those affected or harmed, as well as those who perpetrate the harm, as well as the voices of people at most risk of being victims of serious violence.

Going forward the Working Group will seek to learn from organisations, such as Youth Offending Service, who routinely undertake engagement. We acknowledge the risk of engagement fatigue for communities, so will seek to align community engagement activities with other partners' community engagement calendars. We will also agree a set of common questions to include within community safety engagement activities to enable us to compare data and intelligence across localities.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Identify learning from existing local mechanisms which seek, capture, and respond to community insight, whilst maintaining on-going engagement with local communities.
2. Ensure that community voices are a key element of future SNA's and formation and evaluation of updated strategies.
3. Clarify the regional and local structural governance arrangements to support the effective implementation, monitoring and review of the place-based Serious Violence Plans and Regional Serious Violence Strategy.

## Conclusions

The introduction of the Serious Violence Duty has challenged partners to come together and consider their current agency and collective responses to violence and the causes of violence and consider what more can be done.

The Strategic Needs Assessment tells us that serious violence is happening in the homes and communities of Gwent, and the problem is growing. Some areas are more susceptible than others through their various societal risk factors. There are commonalities across Gwent in some types of violence, frequency, severity, and other factors, but there are also differences in each local area. This means careful consideration needs to be made about a response strategy.

This Strategy, therefore, is the first iteration of a long-term commitment by all Specified Authority duty holders to prevent and reduce serious violence across Gwent. It provides a broad framework alongside specific actions, within which partners and partnerships can act. Those action plans will now be developed in the next 12 months, by local CSPs, Gwent-wide, and potentially wider. Our collective aim is to introduce new and innovative interventions, supported by comprehensive performance monitoring to ensure as a collective group of partners we can tackle this problem, and strive to make a 'Gwent without Violence'.

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Note: Representatives from Gwent Police, local Youth Offending Services and Probation have contributed to this Strategy development via local Workshops and Working Group meetings.

APPENDIX A: Vision: A Gwent Without Violence

Inputs		Short Term Outputs	Outcomes		Strategic Priorities
Activities	Resources		Intermediate	Long Term	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree regional mechanism to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share data</li> <li>Review data set, information and governance required</li> <li>Identify data analysis capacity within current system and/or need for dedicated resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data analytical capacity</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data sets and data report template agreed (i.e. data and narrative to be provided)</li> <li>Data sharing agreements in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established data flows between partners</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map current prevention and early intervention activity</li> <li>Continually review quality assured, published research and best practice of 'what works' and apply to all interventions</li> <li>Funding allocation based on evidence of need, effectiveness</li> <li>All interventions to be evaluated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National repositories of evidence and toolkits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding of current intervention landscape</li> <li>Evaluation built into all local interventions</li> <li>Understanding of evidence base for interventions to tackle drivers and precursors of SV (e.g. ASB) established)</li> <li>Greater accountability within local plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of learning/evaluation of local interventions</li> <li>Effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions systematically considered</li> <li>Evaluation integral to interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional and local preventative interventions commissioned based on effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and local learning</li> <li>Greater understanding of drivers of violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions which are routinely evaluated.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map SVP activity/interventions across CSPs</li> <li>Map partner and partnership plans (with a link to SV) and associated funding</li> <li>Align governance of SVD in context of PSB CSP review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated resource (postholder/organisation) to complete mapping and joining the dots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of commonality, governance arrangements and funding across partnerships</li> <li>Aligned governance for SVD with other partnerships</li> <li>Sharing of local CSP SNAs and plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity of current funding streams and shared priorities across partnerships</li> <li>Sharing of learning from local SNAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed common priorities across partnerships and some shared funding of evidence informed interventions</li> <li>Rationalised partnership landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact by (i) recognising and building on what is being delivered and (ii) strengthening partnerships at a strategic level.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community insights gathered on a local level systematically and in meaningful way</li> <li>Learning from good practice</li> <li>Regional and local structural governance structures identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated resource at local level to complete activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local SNA informed by community insights.</li> <li>Regional SNA informed by qualitative data from local SNAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local action plans informed by data, evidence and local insights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interventions and support that reflects and responds to local needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance</li> </ul>

Page 40

**External Factors:** Funding allocations to core and statutory services, partnerships.

**Assumptions/Requirements:** understanding of other partnership common priorities, dependencies, interdependencies, overlaps and funding. Local needs assessments through CSPs and community insights shared. Funding available to achieve strategic priorities



## Appendix B: Partner and Partnerships Plans and Priorities to consider when developing future strategies (in no order)

- Marmot/Building a Fairer Gwent
- Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board
- Regional criminal/youth justice boards
- Gwent Licensing Forum (licensing of licensed premises)
- Public Service Boards (under WBFG Act 2015)
- RPB (Regional Partnership Board) (Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014)
- Regional Safeguarding Boards – Adults and Children – Social Services and Wellbeing act 2014
- Regional and Local CSPs
- Gwent Regional VAWDASV Board and Strategy
- Wales Police Schools Programme
- ACE and the Adverse Hub for Wales
- Third sector partners
- Victims, survivors, and perpetrators of crime
- Regional Housing Collaboratives
- Gwent Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Strategic Partnership
- Integrated Service Partnership Board
- Local Wellbeing Partnership Boards

### National Legislation

- ASB (Crime and Disorder Act/Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act 2014)
- Counter Terrorism Act
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- WBFG Act – places a duty on sustainable development, how maximise contribution to the 7 WB goals, embed sustainable development principles, Five Ways of Working
- Community Safety Partnerships – Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – statutory obligatory to produce evidence-based strategies – ‘Strategic Assessments’. Could be stand alone or incorporated into Wellbeing Plans. The PCSC Act amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to require CSPs to prepare strategies addressing 2 further matters – preventing people from becoming involved in SV and reducing instances of SV in the area.
- A Healthier Wales – treat and support individuals affected by SV. Pressures on urgent care services can be reduced if SV addressed in locality. Need to play active part in supporting and delivery against Duty.
- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Specified authorities – Safeguarding Boards

- Rights of CYP (Wales) measure
- Housing (Wales) Act – priority needs status including person subject to DA 18-21 at risk of sexual or financial exploitation
- Socio-economic duty – requires public authorities when making decisions of a strategic nature due regard to exercising them in a way designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. Purpose of act encourage better decision making, ensuring more equal outcomes. Need to consider how plans reduce inequalities of outcomes resulting socio-economic disadvantage
- Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 – health and wellbeing area of learning and experience – focus on health and wellbeing of learners including relationships and sexuality education.

#### National Strategies:

- National VAWDASV Strategy 2023-2027
- WG Substance Misuse Delivery Plan
- Whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Youth Work strategy for Wales
- Youth Engagement and progression Framework and Young Person's Guarantee
- Anti Racist Action Plan for Wales
- LGBTQIA+ Action Plan – SV plan seek to challenge discrimination and violence against people identifying as LGBTIA+
- Together for Mental Health
- Homicide prevention (College of Policing) – serious violence and vulnerability. Resources for tackling serious violence and vulnerability. Similar strategies e.g. College of Policing: Homicide Prevention Strategy

Regional Strategies and Plans must also be considered.

## **Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment**

**All decisions, policy reviews or policy implementation will now require a completed Integrated Impact Assessment.**

- Section 1-Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Section 2-Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Section 3-Corporate Plan
- Section 4-Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Section 6-Children’s Right “The Right Way”
- Section 7-Community Safety
- Section 8 Armed Forces
- Section 9-Data
- Section 10-Consultations Statutory Consultation Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles
- Section 11-Monitoring
- Section 12-Decision of proposal

Lead Officer	Head of Service	Service Area & Department	Date
Helena Hunt	Sarah King	Policy and Partnerships – Community Safety	

Briefly outline the proposal indicating what change or decision is to be made, also provide any documentation that may be used to support this.

**What is the proposal that needs to be assessed?**

Scrutiny are being as to consider the content of the Serious Violence Strategy and provide any observations.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ([here](#)) introduced a new statutory duty called the Serious Violence Duty on specified authorities which includes the Local Authority and upon the local Community Safety Partnership by virtue of amendments to [Section 6](#) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The duty is supported by statutory guidance [here](#).

Further the Local Authority will be required under [Section 17](#) of the Crime and Disorder Act to mainstream its approach to prevent and reduce serious violence.

[Section 19](#) of the Police and Justice Act 2006 has been amended to ensure that local democratic scrutiny of crime and disorder matters, has been extended to include serious violence.

**Section 1**

**Outline how the proposal will impact on any people or groups of people with protected characteristics, please refer to the Equalities Act 2010 (Wales) for further information [Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) and the EHRC guidance [The Essential Guide to the Public Sector Equality Duty: EHRC](#)**

**Briefly outline below if there will be any positive or negative impacts as a result of the proposal being considered.**

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
<p><b>Age</b> (people of all ages)</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of serious violence in Blaenau Gwent are most commonly White, Female between <b>26 – 35 years old</b></li> <li>• Victims of Weapon Crime and ABH with Intent are most commonly White, Male and most commonly under the <b>age of 18.</b></li> <li>• Offenders of violent crime in Blaenau Gwent are mostly White, Male and between <b>26 – 35 years of age.</b></li> <li>• In 2020-21 Hospital Admissions rates for Young people under 25 years that had experienced Assault with a Sharp Object was 5.26 per 100,000 population which was well above the Wales rate of 3.19.</li> </ul> <p>Preventing children from entering the criminal justice system, minimising their contact with it and maximising opportunities for diversion is essential in supporting them to lead crime free lives.</p>

<p><b>Disability</b> (<i>people with disabilities/ long term conditions</i>)</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	
<p><b>Gender Reassignment</b> (<i>anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth</i>)</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	
<p><b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b> (<i>people who are married or in a civil partnership</i>)</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>Since 2018-19 in Gwent as a whole, most victims of domestic weapon crime where weapons were used were between 26-35 years and were female. Offenders were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.</p> <p>In Gwent as a whole, since 2018-19 the majority of victims of domestic Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent were White, females, between 26- 35. Offenders were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.</p>

<p><b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b> (<i>women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave</i>)</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>Victims of serious violence in Blaenau Gwent are White, Female and between 26 – 35 years old. The 2021 Census notes Blaenau Gwent has a Fertility Rate of 1.60; and has 3,543 children aged 0-4 years.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Rape and Sexual Offence crime rate has shown a significant increase over the last 5 years of 95% and a volume increase of 88%.</p> <p>NB: Gwent Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board have recently commissioned a strategic needs assessment to consider crime and serious violence. BGCBC are represented on the VAWDASV Board and working groups, to address the subsequent priorities.</p>
<p><b>Race</b> (<i>people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</i>)</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>Some of the interventions as a result of this policy may disproportionately indirectly impact the Black, Male and young population, as we know these groups are more likely to be suspects of serious violence. According to the most recent Ministry of Justice publication (year to <a href="#">March 2020</a>) 70 per cent of offenders convicted and cautioned for knife and offensive weapon possession offences were White, 18 per cent were Black and 7 per cent were Asian. However when looking at rates, it is clear that Black people were disproportionally convicted or cautioned, with the rate being 186 per 100,000 for Black individuals, 34 for Asian individuals, and 28 for White individuals (<a href="#">see here</a>). Using the same publication, 93 per cent of those convicted and cautioned for knife and offensive weapon possession offences were male. This means that any intervention that aims to reduce serious violence by targeting those</p>

			<p>who are more likely to offenders, may disproportionately target this group.</p> <p>Data indicates that Black and male individuals are more likely to be victims of serious violence (<a href="#">see here</a>) and there is also often a disproportionate impact of certain knife crime offences on young people. Therefore, benefits could disproportionality fall to those with certain characteristics. The aim of the is policy is the reduction of violence amongst those most likely to be involved.</p>
<p><b>Religion or Belief</b> <i>(people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i></p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	
<p><b>Sex</b> <i>(women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender)</i></p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women are more likely to be victims of Serious Violence.</li> <li>• Males are more likely to be victims of Weapon Crime / Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) with Intent.</li> <li>• In Gwent as a whole, since 2018-19 the majority of victims of domestic Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent were White, females, between 26- 35. Offenders were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.</li> <li>• Offenders of violent crime in Blaenau Gwent are mostly Male.</li> <li>• In Gwent as a whole, since 2018-19 offenders of Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.</li> </ul>



			NB: Gwent Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board have recently commissioned a strategic needs assessment to consider crime and serious violence. BGCBC are represented on the VAWDASV Board and working groups, to address the subsequent priorities.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> <i>(lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other)</i>	The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.	The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people with this protected characteristic from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.	

**NOTE: Section 2 only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.**

Section 2			
Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only)			
The Welsh Governments <a href="#">Socio-economic Duty</a> provides a framework in order to ensure tackling inequality is at the forefront of decision making.			
.Please consider the below vulnerable groups and consider how the proposal could affect them:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Single parents and vulnerable families</li> <li>➢ People with low literacy/numeracy</li> <li>➢ Pensioners</li> <li>➢ Looked after children</li> <li>➢ Homeless people</li> <li>➢ Carers</li> <li>➢ Armed Forces Community</li> <li>➢ Students</li> <li>➢ Single adult households</li> <li>➢ People misusing substances</li> <li>➢ People who have experienced the asylum system</li> <li>➢ People of all ages leaving a care setting</li> <li>➢ People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)</li> <li>➢ People involved in the criminal justice system</li> </ul>			
Socio Economic disadvantage definitions.	Will the proposal have a positive, negative or neutral impacts on the below?	How could you mitigate the negative impacts outlined?	Please highlight any evidence that has been considered.
<b>Low Income / Income Poverty</b> <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i>			
<b>Low and/or No Wealth</b> <i>(enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future)</i>			




<p><b>Material Deprivation</b> (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)</p>			
<p><b>Area Deprivation</b> (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?</i>)</p>			
<p><b>Socio-economic Background</b> (<i>social class i.e. parents education, employment and income</i>)</p>			
<p><b>Socio-economic Disadvantage</b> (<i>What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged</i>)</p>			



### Section 3-Corporate Plan

Please outline any Corporate Plan linkages of the proposal -[BG Corporate Plan 22-27](#)

<p><b>Priority 1</b> - Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</p>	<p>Tackling serious violence across multiple environmental contexts i.e. homes, schools, community, workplaces, businesses and green spaces, requires a joined up co-ordinated programme of awareness raising, education, prevention, intervention, support and where necessary enforcement. This approach will improve feelings of well-being, safety and build resilience in children, young people, adults and communities.</p>
<p><b>Priority 2</b> - Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</p>	<p>The approach to tackle serious violence spans people, spaces and places. If people feel well and safe they are more likely to engage with the outdoors and want to be more involved with and protect their communities. Feelings of safety encourages more people to connect in different spaces and places, which in turn increases natural surveillance and minimises opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.</p>
<p><b>Priority 3</b> - An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</p>	<p>Whether we are dealing with victims or offenders the importance of providing quality services at the right time and in the right place cannot be overestimated. We take an early intervention and prevention approach when responding to negative impacts caused by serious violence.</p>
<p><b>Priority 4</b> - Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</p>	<p>This is the mainstreamed function of LA departments and core business of community safety partners. We manage vulnerability, threat, risk and harms by educating and empowering young people, families and communities to get involved in understanding their local issues and working with us to be a part of the solutions – thus minimising dependence and maximising independence.</p>

**Section 4-Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP)**  
*Sustainable development principles. The WBFG Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)*

Five Ways of Working	How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?
<p><b>Long Tern</b></p> 	<p>Consider the long-term impact of the proposal on the ability of communities to secure their well-being.</p> <p>In Gwent, there is currently no system in place to systematically collect regional and local partner serious violence data, which is compounded by a lack of dedicated data analytic resource to analyse and interpret the data shared. The current picture of serious violence in Gwent is therefore not complete, particularly regarding understanding and interpreting what the existing data tells us about where action is required. This imposes limitations on the effectiveness of setting longer-term priorities within the regional Strategy and local CSP delivery plans. To achieve our vision of ‘A Gwent Without Violence’ we need a much better understanding of the serious violence landscape to inform our strategic direction that incorporates appropriate partner and partnership data. This first Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Strategy therefore intentionally sets out the priorities to be achieved in 2024-25 which will enable time to address the data and intelligence gaps, which can then be used to refresh this Strategy from 2025 onwards.</p>
<p><b>Prevention</b></p> 	<p>Consider how the proposal is preventing problems from occurring or getting worse</p> <p>The Serious Violence Duty set out the specific requirements for ‘Specified Authorities’ to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence “including identifying the kind 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”.</p>
<p><b>Integration</b></p> 	<p>Consider how your proposal will impact on other services provided in our communities (these might be Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups)</p> <p>To complement the overarching Serious Violence Duty, amendments to <a href="#">section 6</a> of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ensures that the local Community Safety Partnership has an explicit role in evidence-based strategic action on serious violence. <a href="#">Section 17</a> of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that “Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the</p>

	exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent' crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, re-offending and serious violence.
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> 	<p>Consider how you are working with Council services or services delivered by other organisations or groups in our communities.</p> <p>To complement the overarching Serious Violence Duty, amendments to <a href="#">section 6</a> of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ensures that the local Community Safety Partnership has an explicit role in evidence-based strategic action on serious violence. A key part of the work of Community Safety is engaging with the communities it serves. There is a well-established much wider network of multi-agency partnerships across Blaenau Gwent, Gwent and Wales that are accessed to maximise the outcomes for local people and communities.</p>
<p><b>Involvement</b></p> 	<p>Consider how you involve people who have an interest in this proposal and ensure that they represent the diversity of our communities.</p> <p>The Head of Governance and Partnerships has established an Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force. Part of the programme of works is to establish a new <b>Talk 2gether</b> campaign, which aims to engage with residents, listen to their concerns, inform them about the current actions taken by the ASB Taskforce, and encourage them to report any criminal and anti-social behaviour incidents in their area.</p>

**How does your proposal link to the Welsh Governments Priorities for Wales? Please indicate below.**

- A PROSPEROUS WALES** ... an innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

When people’s quality of life and well-being are good, and they feel safe in their home, work or out in the community and green spaces of Blaenau Gwent some of their basic human needs are met. These people are more likely to engage with opportunities, whether that be education or employment. If the area is safe, it is also more attractive for inward investment or economic growth, which in turn increases employment opportunities. People in gainful training or employment are less likely to become involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The more people who are out and about in their neighbourhoods or communities, the more natural surveillance occurs thus reducing opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the environment.

2. **A RESILIENT WALES ...** a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change). Think about how your activity will have regard to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

When people’s quality of life and well-being are good, and they feel safe in their home, work or out in the community and green spaces of Blaenau Gwent some of their basic human needs are met. These people are more likely to engage with opportunities, whether that be education or employment. If the area is safe, it is also more attractive for inward investment or economic growth, which in turn increases employment opportunities. People in gainful training or employment are less likely to become involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The more people who are out and about in their neighbourhoods or communities, the more natural surveillance occurs thus reducing opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the environment.

3. **A HEALTHIER WALES ...** a society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

When people’s quality of life and well-being are good, and they feel safe in their home, work or out in the community and green spaces of Blaenau Gwent some of their basic human needs are met. These people are more likely to engage with opportunities, whether that be education or employment. If the area is safe, it is also more attractive for inward investment or economic growth, which in turn increases employment opportunities. People in gainful training or employment are less likely to become involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The more people who

are out and about in their neighbourhoods or communities, the more natural surveillance occurs thus reducing opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the environment.

4. **A MORE EQUAL WALES ...** A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

When people's quality of life and well-being are good, and they feel safe in their home, work or out in the community and green spaces of Blaenau Gwent some of their basic human needs are met. These people are more likely to engage with opportunities, whether that be education or employment.

The criminal justice system is geared to support offenders to take up opportunities in education, training and employment, which is understood to reduce re-offending, and which goes some way to support them to achieve the potential.

5. **A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES ...** attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

When people's quality of life and well-being are good, and they feel safe in their home, work or out in the community and green spaces of Blaenau Gwent some of their basic human needs are met. The more people who are out and about in their neighbourhoods or communities, the more natural surveillance occurs thus reducing opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the environment. Further if more people engage with opportunities in their communities, then this generates well-connected communities.

6. **A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING ...** a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

When people's quality of life and well-being are good, and they feel safe in their home, work or out in the community and green spaces of Blaenau Gwent some of their basic human needs are met. These people are more likely to engage with opportunities in education, employment, or participating in club and community groups.



7. **A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES ...** a nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Improving people’s quality of life, helping them to feel safe, empowering them to engage with and develop the solutions to community safety issues that affect their families and communities will make a significant contribution to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

Section 5-Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards		
<p><i>(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have ‘due regard’ for the positive or negative impact that any proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language. <a href="#">Welsh Language Standards</a></i></p>		
Requirement	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts in regards to the below?	What can be done to mitigate any negative impacts?
		Please demonstrate any evidence used to form this opinion.



<p><b>Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.</b>  <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i></p>	<p>The responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership will comply with all relevant Welsh Language Standards.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>What opportunities are there to promote the Welsh Language?</b> <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i></p>	<p>The responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership will comply with all relevant Welsh Language Standards.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>What opportunities are there for a person or person to use the Welsh Language?</b> <i>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</i></p>	<p>The responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership will comply with all relevant Welsh Language Standards.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>Has the Welsh Language been considered in order to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?</b></p>	<p>Any public facing material produced within the Community Safety Partnership is bi-lingual.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

**Section 6 – Children’s Rights Approach - [The Right Way](#)**

The Children’s Rights Approach – The Right Way is a framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It places the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery and integrates children’s rights into every aspect of decision-making, policy and practice. The Right Way focuses on three main them Participation, Provision and Protection.

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
<p><b>Participation</b> (child or young person as someone who actively contributes to society as a citizen)</p>	<p>Children’s rights are central to preventing violence among children and young people, with policy and practice in Wales and Gwent being underpinned by a commitment to them.</p>	<p>No. The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing children and young people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Youth Justice Blueprint for Wales</a> sets out a commitment to ‘Work with key stakeholders to strengthen the integrated partnership approach to the delivery of youth justice services which prioritises ‘child first’ and improves outcomes for children.’</p> <p>The Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Justice Plan <a href="#">2023-2025</a> sets out how the Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service has ‘a strong ethos of “Child First”, which can enhance lives, reduce offending, promote safer communities and lead to fewer victims’.</p>
<p><b>Provision</b> (the basic rights of children and young people to survive and develop)</p>	<p>Children’s rights are central to preventing violence among children and young people, with policy and practice in Wales and Gwent being underpinned by a commitment to them.</p>	<p>No. The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing children and young people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The YOS Vision Statement is “Inspiring, motivating and supporting children to live crime free lives”. They will do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing and diverting children from anti-social and offending behaviour</li> <li>• Valuing the diversity of children and help them to achieve better outcomes</li> <li>• Ensuring children are kept safe and the risk to the public is minimised</li> <li>• Providing effective support to families and victims engaged with the service whilst working to ensure safer, inclusive communities</li> <li>• Ensuring restorative practice ethos, principles and approaches are embedded in every aspect of YOS service delivery</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing in staff and volunteers to ensure a professional, skilled and knowledgeable workforce</li> <li>• Working in partnership</li> </ul> <p>The Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service understands that “Participation empowers children by allowing them to influence decision making and bring about change. This empowerment can mean a great deal to the children who engage with the YOS, who can often feel that their voices are not heard and that they have no control over decisions that affect their life. The YOS has embedded practice which ensures participation is inherent in its daily delivery covering a large number of its processes, procedures and functions.”</p> <p>The YOS also creates a Quarterly Participation Report which includes the voices of children which it shares with the LMB, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. Feedback is addressed immediately and included in the Quarterly Participation Report to evidence that action has been taken timely and shared with the relevant source.</p>
<p><b>Protection</b>        (children and young people are protected against exploitation, abuse or discrimination)</p>	<p>Children’s rights are central to preventing violence among children and young people, with policy and practice in Wales and Gwent being underpinned by a commitment to them.</p>	<p>No. The aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing children and young people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The All Wales Child Practice <a href="#">Guides</a> are used in conjunction with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures to protect children and young people from exploitation and abuse. The Guides and Procedures support individuals and agencies across Wales to understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children and adults safe. They support a consistent approach to safeguarding practice and procedures.</p>

## Section 7– Community Safety

### Duty to Consider Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the local authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence.

Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on crime and disorder?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on crime and disorder?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
<b>Crime</b> (consider impact on each: victims, offenders and neighbourhoods)	Yes. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area taking a contextual safeguarding approach, that considers victims, offenders and locations.	No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.	The Community Safety Partnership will develop a local delivery plan.
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the local environment</b>	Yes. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area taking a contextual safeguarding approach, that considers	No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing	The Community Safety Partnership will develop a local delivery plan.

<p>(consider impact on each: victims, offenders, neighbourhoods and green spaces)</p>	<p>victims, offenders and locations.</p>	<p>people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	
<p><b>Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances</b>        (Think vulnerable children, adults, families and communities)</p>	<p>Yes. The Duty sets out a requirement for the specified and relevant authorities to identify the causes of violence in an area and then the Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area taking a contextual safeguarding approach, that considers victims, offenders and locations.</p>	<p>No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The Community Safety Partnership will develop a local delivery plan.</p>
<p><b>Re-offending</b>        (Think young people and adults, victims, families, communities)</p>	<p>Yes. The Duty sets out a requirement for the specified and relevant authorities to identify the causes of violence in an area and then the Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area taking a contextual safeguarding approach, that considers victims, offenders and</p>	<p>No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The Community Safety Partnership will develop a local delivery plan.</p>

	locations. Monitoring offending and re-offending levels, patterns and trends, as well as monitoring and managing offenders and their re-offending is mainstreamed functions of the criminal justice partners.		
<b>Serious Violence</b> (Think vulnerable young people, vulnerable adults, victims, families, communities)	Yes. The Duty sets out a requirement for the specified and relevant authorities to tackle serious violence in an area. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area taking a contextual safeguarding approach, that considers victims, offenders and locations.	No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.	The Community Safety Partnership will develop a local delivery plan.
<b>Counter Terrorism</b> (People and places that are vulnerable to terrorism or violent extremism)	Counter Terrorism is out of scope of the serious violence duty. There are well-established counter terrorism strategies, plans, and strategic governance and delivery structures in place to deal with this agenda.		The Community Safety Partnership will develop a local delivery plan.

<p><b>Community Cohesion</b>          (Asylum seekers, Migrants, Victims or Hate Crime, Community tensions)</p>	<p>Yes. The Duty sets out a requirement for the specified and relevant authorities to understand and tackle serious violence in an area. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area taking a contextual safeguarding approach, that considers victims, offenders and locations.</p>	<p>No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p>	<p>The Community Safety Partnership will develop a local delivery plan.</p>
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Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the armed forces community?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the armed forces community?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services</li> <li>• Planning and funding</li> <li>• Co-operation between bodies and professionals</li> </ul> <p>These healthcare functions are within scope of the Duty in the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS Primary Care services, including general practice, community pharmacies, NHS dental, NHS optometry services and public health screening services.</li> <li>• NHS Secondary Care services, including urgent and emergency care, hospital and community services, specialist care, mental health services, and</li> </ul>	<p>Yes. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p> <p>There are extensive mainstreamed services and established networks of support that BGCBC and the criminal justice agencies can access to ensure any serving military personnel or veterans identified as offenders or victims can be sign-posted to for support.</p>	<p>No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p> <p>There are extensive mainstreamed services and established networks of support that BGCBC and the criminal justice agencies can access to ensure any serving military personnel or veterans identified as offenders or victims can be sign-posted to for support.</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment has not considered the offending or victimisation levels, patterns or trends among service personnel. This matter will be raised in the Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Group.</p> <p>However, men who have served in the UK Armed Forces are more likely to commit a violent offence during their lifetime than their civilian counterparts, according to research by <a href="#">King's Centre for Military Health Research</a> at King's College London.</p> <p>Further the research by Kings College London (KCL), jointly funded by the MOD, found increased prevalence of intimate partner violence and abuse (IPVA) in the Armed Forces community compared to the general population. <a href="#">[Source]</a></p>

<p>additional needs services (as applicable).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local authority-delivered healthcare services, including sexual health services and drug and alcohol misuse services</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admissions</li> <li>Educational attainment and curriculum</li> <li>Child wellbeing</li> <li>Transport</li> <li>Attendance</li> <li>Additional needs support</li> <li>Use of Service Pupil Premium funding (England only)</li> </ul> <p>These education functions are within scope of the Duty in compulsory education settings, that is, primary, secondary, and, for England only, compulsory further education. The Duty does not cover nursery (early years education), higher education, or other</p>	<p>Yes. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p> <p>There are extensive mainstreamed services and established networks of support that BGCBC and the criminal justice agencies can access to ensure any serving military personnel or veterans identified as offenders or victims can be sign-posted to for support.</p>	<p>No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p> <p>There are extensive mainstreamed services and established networks of support that BGCBC and the criminal justice agencies can access to ensure any serving military personnel or veterans identified as offenders or victims can be sign-posted to for support.</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment has not considered the offending or victimisation levels, patterns or trends among service personnel. This matter will be raised in the Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Group.</p>

voluntary adult education settings			
<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocations policy for social housing</li> <li>• Tenancy strategies (England only)</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Disabled Facilities Grants</li> </ul>	<p>Yes. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p> <p>There are extensive mainstreamed services and established networks of support that BGCBC and the criminal justice agencies can access to ensure any serving military personnel or veterans identified as offenders or victims can be sign-posted to for support.</p>	<p>No. The Serious Violence Strategy aims to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Further the aim of the Serious Violence Duty is as much about preventing people from becoming victims as it is about them becoming offenders.</p> <p>There are extensive mainstreamed services and established networks of support that BGCBC and the criminal justice agencies can access to ensure any serving military personnel or veterans identified as offenders or victims can be sign-posted to for support.</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment has not considered the offending or victimisation levels, patterns or trends among service personnel. This matter will be raised in the Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Group.</p>

**Section 9-Data-Please outline any data or evidence that has been used to develop the proposal, this can be previous consultations, local/national data, pilot projects, reports, feedback from clients etc.**

<b>Data/evidence –What data/evidence was used? - provide any links.</b>	<b>What were the key findings?</b>	<b>How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?</b>
<p>The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment has been produced to inform the development of the Serious Violence Strategy. Whilst the document was shared during a Member Development session on the subject, the document is for internal business use only.</p>	<p>Some of the key findings of the Strategic Needs Assessment are contained in the Serious Violence Strategy.</p>	<p>The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment informed the development of the Serious Violence Strategy.</p> <p>The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment will inform the development of a local partnership delivery plan.</p>
<p><b>Are there any data or information gaps and if so what are they and how do you intend to address them?</b></p>		
<p>Excerpt from the Gwent Serious Violence Strategy “In Gwent, there is currently no system in place to systematically collect regional and local partner serious violence data, which is compounded by a lack of dedicated data analytic resource to analyse and interpret the data shared. The current picture of serious violence in Gwent is therefore not complete, particularly regarding understanding and interpreting what the existing data tells us about where action is required. This imposes limitations on the effectiveness of setting longer-term priorities within the regional Strategy and local CSP delivery plans. To achieve our vision of ‘A Gwent Without Violence’ we need a much better understanding of the serious violence landscape to inform our strategic direction that incorporates appropriate partner and partnership data. This first Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Strategy therefore intentionally sets out the priorities to be achieved in 2024-25 which will enable time to address the data and intelligence gaps, which can then be used to refresh this Strategy from 2025 onwards.”</p>		
<p><b>Section 10-Consultation. Please provide details of consultation undertaken to support the proposal. Please consider the Gunning Principles: -</b></p>		

Principle 1: Consultation must take place when the proposals are still at a formative stage. You must not have already made up your mind.

Principle 2: Sufficient reasons must be put forward to allow for intelligent consideration and response. Have people been given the information and opportunity to influence?

Principle 3: Adequate time must be given for consideration and response. Is the consultation long enough bearing in mind the circumstances?

Principle 4: The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision

**Briefly describe any planned consultations or consultations that have been carried out to date. Please consider the above principles.**

**Please consider the following questions; -**

**1. Who did you consult?**

- Specified and Relevant Authorities – throughout the production of the Strategic Needs Assessment and the development of the Strategy.
- 27 March 2024: Blaenau Gwent Elected Member Briefing Session
- 8 April 2024: Responsible Authorities of the Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Partnership

**2. When did the consultation take place and was adequate time given for a response?**

- As above

**3. Was there enough information provided to respond effectively?**

- The Strategic Needs Assessment and the Strategy documents were provided during the consultations

**4. What were the findings?**

- No adverse comments were received.

**5. Have the findings been considered in regards to the decision?**

- No adverse comments were received.

**Section 11-Monitoring and Review**


<p><b>How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored, including the impacts or changes made?</b></p>	<p><b>Nationally (non-devolved):</b> The Home Office’s Serious Violence statutory guidance notes the establishment of ‘routine inspection programmes’, and notes where the Secretary of State considers that a specified authority, or educational, prison or youth custody authority has failed to discharge certain serious violence duties they may issue directions to the responsible authorities for the purpose of securing compliance with the duty. However, the Secretary of State must obtain consent of the Welsh Ministers before giving a direction to a devolved Welsh authority.</p> <p><b>Regionally:</b> Regionally progress against the serious violence duty will be overseen by the Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Partnership.</p> <p><b>Locally:</b> Progress will be overseen by the Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p><b>Democratic Scrutiny:</b> The Community Safety Partnership will provide timely reports for democratic scrutiny</p>
<p><b>What monitoring tools will be used?</b></p>	<p>A performance management framework will be developed regionally.</p>
<p><b>How will the results be used for future development?</b></p>	<p>Any results and positive/adverse learning will be captured in future Strategic Needs Assessments, and used to inform any revisions to Strategy and Delivery Plans</p>
<p><b>How and when will it be reviewed?</b></p>	<p>Nationally: Home Office will provide future guidance in the routine inspection regimes.</p> <p>Regionally: Monthly meetings</p> <p>Locally: Quarterly CSP meetings</p> <p>Democratic Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes</p>
<p><b>Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?</b></p>	<p>Sarah King – Head of Governance and Partnerships (includes Community Safety) and Co-Chair of the local Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Helena Hunt – Professional Lead Community Safety</p>

**Section 12 - Decision**

*Using the information, you have gathered from sections 1-9 please state in the table below whether you are able to proceed with the proposal.*

Continue with the proposal in its current form	<b>Yes</b>
Continue with proposal but take into account reasonable steps to mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Page 71

Name of person completing the IIA			
Name:	Helena Hunt		
Job Title:	Professional Lead Community Safety		
Date:	04 April 2024		
Head of Service Approval			
Name:	Sarah King		
Job Title:	Head of Governance and Partnerships		
Signature:		Date:	08.04.24

Please contact Policy & Partnerships should you require any further advice or guidance on completing your assessment via [kate.james@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:kate.james@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) or [lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

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