

# Serious Violence Duty Plan

St Helens Borough Action Plan

---

2024-2027







**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL







**The three key success measures for the prevention and reduction of serious violence, as mandated by the Home Office, are:**

- ▶ **A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object.**
- ▶ **A reduction in knife and sharp object enabled serious violence recorded by the police; and**
- ▶ **Homicides recorded by the police.**

Theme	Action / Thematic Priority
 <p><b>Raising awareness of Serious Violence</b></p>	<p>Communications and marketing campaigns planned and delivered throughout the Strategy period to raise awareness of Serious Violence and partner responses. Use of opportunities to raise the profile of Serious Violence – e.g. Knife Angel installation in 2024.</p>
	<p>Communications to tackle misconceptions regarding Serious Violence in our communities - e.g. perception of gangs in the local area.</p>
 <p><b>Engagement and Consultation</b></p>	<p>Understanding the impact of Serious Violence in our schools and education sector through regular surveys.</p>
	<p>Understanding the impact of Serious Violence on children in our care via consultation with residential children’s homes across our care provider network.</p>
	<p>Delivery of a stakeholder engagement workshop with the wider voluntary, community and faith sector.</p>
 <p><b>Governance</b></p>	<p>Establishing Serious Violence as a standing agenda item on Safer St Helens Executive (CSP) with other specified authorities invited to provide updates.</p>
	<p>Ensure that the local Combatting Drugs Strategy is aligned appropriately to the Serious Violence Strategy and considers the prevention of Serious Violence in relation to drugs related serious violence as an outcome.</p>
	<p>Ensure that the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Delivery Plan is aligned to the Serious Violence Duty Action Plan and the funding allocated through the Domestic Abuse Board is targeted at reducing this Serious Violence issue.</p>
 <p><b>Strengthening oversight in public spaces</b></p>	<p>Improve provision of CCTV within both town centres and use Serious Violence data to inform future installations of cameras.</p>
	<p>Partnership support and alignment with the creation of the dedicated Town Centre policing team to respond to an identified Serious Violence hotspot area.</p>
	<p>Improving the Night-Time Economy (NTE) in St Helens Town Centre with co-ordination via the NTE Forum, delivery of Safer Streets 5, and delivering of the licensing objectives.</p>
	<p>Progress opportunities to enhance parks and open spaces to improve perceptions of safety, including working with Friends Group and seasonal deployment of programmes/services.</p>
	<p>Strengthen links with Merseytravel and bus companies to progress opportunities to improve perceptions of safety on public transport.</p>

Outcome	Lead	Resources / Dependencies	By When?
Public awareness and co-ordination of communications to residents.	Team Manager – Community Safety	Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Budget Dedicated funding for specific projects (e.g. Knife Angel)	January 2024 – December 2024
Enhanced communications regarding local crime statistics, success of interventions and a greater public awareness of the issue of Serious Violence.	Team Manager – Community Safety	Communications budgets	
Data and perception from education leads.	AD Education Services	Engagement from the schools	March – June 2024 & annually thereafter
Data and perception information. To inform future targeted work with this group of young people.	AD Children’s Social Care	Engagement from the sector	March – June 2024 & annually thereafter
Aligning partnership responses.	Team Manager – Community Safety	Engagement from sectors / partners CSP resources	April 2024 Annual Workshop
Information and opportunities for future collaboration / shared accountability.	AD Housing and Communities	CSP Chair	January 2024
Targeted use of funding. Alignment of strategic links between Serious Violence and Drug and Alcohol use.	Consultant in Public Health	CDP has a dedicated grant funding allocation	Ongoing report into Safer St Helens Executive
Targeted use of funding. Alignment of Strategic links through the Safer St Helens Executive reporting and scrutiny.	Chair of Domestic Abuse Board	Dedicated DA funding	Ongoing Report into Safer St Helens Executive
Prevention and detection of crime. Improved public perception.	AD Housing & Communities	St Helens Council Capital Budget	March 2024
Shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration.	AD Housing & Communities	Merseyside Police Uplift Funding	December 2023
Reducing Serious Violence incidence in the NTE. Improving perceptions of safety in the NTE.	AD Housing & Communities	Safer Streets 5 NTE Forum capacity	By end of March 2024
*Link to Serious Violence Survey outcomes. Improving perceptions regarding Serious Violence in our communities.	Team Manager – Community Safety	UKSPF (UK shared Prosperity Funding) Friends Groups capacity to support	July – October 2024
*Links to Serious Violence Survey outcomes. Improving perceptions regarding Serious Violence in our communities.	Team Manager – Community Safety	Travel Safe an initiative coordinated by Merseytravel / Mersey Rail and Bus Companies	April 2024

Theme	Action / Thematic Priority
 <p><b>Data driven intervention programmes within our communities</b></p>	<p>Ensure that future deployment of Council ASB outreach and commissioned programmes such as the MFRS (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service) SIT Team are aligned to the Serious Violence data 'hotspots'.</p> <p>Educate and enforce those adults in the community where the data suggests that higher levels of violence are committed on Friday and Saturday nights in St Helens Town Centre.</p>
 <p><b>Identification of people at risk of becoming involved in perpetrating Serious Violence</b></p>	<p>Identification of and clear pathways of referrals into YJS prevention programmes – e.g. Turnaround.</p> <p>Alignment of the Council activity to reduce persistent absenteeism and exclusions with the wider activity across the partnership on Serious Violence.</p> <p>Alignment of the Serious Violence Action Plan with the co-ordinated activities of agencies working on the response to children at risk of exploitation and the Complex Safeguarding approach.</p> <p>Ensure that learning from the Complex Cares approach within the borough to people experiencing homelessness is aligned to the prevention of serious violence.</p>
 <p><b>Identification and support for people who are victims of serious violence.</b></p>	<p>Strengthen engagement and sign posting to  <b>Victim Care Merseyside</b> - <a href="https://www.victimcaremerseyside.org/">https://www.victimcaremerseyside.org/</a>  <b>St Helens: Victim Care Merseyside</b> - <a href="https://www.victimcaremerseyside.org/help-in-my-area/areas/st-helens/">https://www.victimcaremerseyside.org/help-in-my-area/areas/st-helens/</a></p>
 <p><b>Direct enforcement activity within hot-spot areas to target serious violent crime.</b></p>	<p>Proactive robust response to law enforcement. Pursue, disrupt and prosecute those who commit serious violent crimes.</p>

Outcome	Lead	Resources / Dependencies	By When?
Targeted interventions.	Team Manager – Community Safety	Dedicated grant funding Community Safety Team Grant / Staffing	Ongoing regular data to Safer St Helens Executive
Targeted interventions including strengthening policing in Town Centre and deploying improved CCTV.	Merseyside Police	Dedicated Merseyside Police Town Centre team	Ongoing
Reduction of repeat offending. Reduction of first-time offending. Reduction in the number of young people who are looked after by the Council open to YJS.	Head of Youth Justice Service	Dedicated Turnaround funding via YJS	Ongoing
Reduction in the rate of persistent absenteeism and exclusions in the borough.	Assistant Director Education	Education / Schools Budgets	Ongoing
Identification of children at risk of exploitation and further co-ordination of responses.	Head of Service – Children’s Social Care	Dedicated Complex Safeguarding function and wider opportunities for grant funded initiatives	Ongoing
Identification of adults at risk of serious violence and pathways into intervention.	Consultant in Public Health	Existing multi agency Complex Cares Panel, led by Public Health and Housing Services	Evaluation from Liverpool John Moores University in progress
Enhanced support for victims and survivors of violence. Enhanced access to free, confidential advice, plus emotional and practical support tailored to meet needs.	Merseyside Police	Victims Hub funded by OPCC (Office of Police and Crime Commissioner)	Ongoing and referral numbers shared with Safer St Helens Executive
Create safe spaces with zero tolerance to serious violence.	Merseyside Police	Police funding	Ongoing and enforcement activity reported into Safer St Helens Executive

