

REDUCTION OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Safer Plymouth



SUMMARY

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a new statutory Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) that commenced on 31st January 2023. This Duty requires local areas to take co-ordinated action to prevent and reduce serious violence. In response to this Safer Plymouth published the Plymouth Model for Serious Violence Prevention / Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and the Reduction of Serious Violence Action Plan in January 2024.

Plymouth has agreed to the following definition of Serious Violence: the intentional use or threat of violence and harmful behaviours. Including, but not limited to, knife and gun crime, robbery, domestic abuse, sexual violence inc. rape, alcohol related violence, exploitation and stalking and harassment.

Our vision is for Plymouth to be a place where everyone can lead their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.

We aim to achieve this through multiple and reinforcing approaches that both address the drivers of violence and respond to the harm caused by violence. This will support a dynamic and adaptive process that responds to the call for change outlined in the Serious Violence Duty and supports effective coordination of local efforts and resources.

This will be underpinned by four pillars:

- Building Personal and Community Resilience
- Responding to Harm
- Feeling Safe
- Learning and Understanding

The Home Office has awarded Plymouth (via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) £125,000 12-month nonrecurring funding. Following an application process this funding has been allocated to eight projects that include:

- Supporting the delivery of Purple Flag initiative to strengthen violence prevention in the night time economy
- Local community projects that will create opportunities for conversations and co-production with communities including those most affected by violence
- Improving opportunities for reporting violence particularly for diverse and excluded communities by commissioning Bystander training for Hate, Race and Domestic Abuse/Violence
- Challenging harmful and cultural norms through the work MAN Culture
- Funding the Impact Project that intervenes early with children who the Police and Youth Justice Service believe at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
- A project co-produced with young people exploring how speech, language and communication issues adversely impacts young people with a high number of suspensions and those at risk of permanent exclusion focusing on early intervention.
- Preventing offending in child sexual abuse through communication campaigns to encourage early intervention and training for practitioners.

- Phase two of a feasibility study for a community prevention service for people with enduring sexual thoughts about children.

ACTION TO DATE

To date progress has been made in delivering against the strategy and action plan with the following key steps undertaken:

Governance

The delivery of Serious Violence Reduction Strategy and Action Plan will be overseen and governed by Safer Plymouth and the tactical delivery will be managed by the newly formed multi agency Crime Sub Group that is going to be facilitated by Chief Inspector Tom Cumingham and Community Safety Technical Officer Kirsty Passmore. The first meeting of this group is taking place in July 24. The OPCCs office has also established a Peninsula Serious Violence Reduction Partnership and the first meeting of this group is scheduled for the 18th June.

Funding Expectations and Monitoring

The Community Safety Technical Officer has met with each funding project lead officers to agree funding expectations and monitoring requirements. Work has also been undertaken to commence commissioning as soon as possible once the contract from the Home Office has been completed.

For example, the Domestic Abuse Active Bystander Training specification has been written and will be published once it has been approved by the Procurement team. The Training will take place before the end of March 2025.

PROJECT FOCUS

The following provides a brief description of two of the funded projects:

1. The Domestic Abuse Active Bystander Training

This commission will include:

- Co-production of a young people's Active Bystander training programme and engage with at least 2 schools, NSPCC Advisory Group and Youth Parliament to develop schools-based programme to address Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Co-production of a community Active Bystander training programme to address Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Engagement with local providers and the application of current best practice, research, and interventions locally, regionally and nationally to the design of the Active Bystander training.
- Creation of a Plymouth specific Active Bystander Training package that can be delivered face to face and online and deliver training to at least 500 people.
- Development of Plymouth specific Train the Trainer package to enable long term sustainability of the training and train a minimum of 16 people across Plymouth who will be able to continue to deliver the training.

2. M.A.N Culture

M.A.N Culture is a Male Allyship Network challenging 'lad culture' and promoting a positive 'man culture'. Listening to men and boys, facilitating difficult conversations needed to address male culture and supporting the safety of women and girls in the city. Over the next 12 months the serious violence reduction will support M.A.N Culture to:

- Deliver a city-wide conference
- Delivery of a minimum of 12 workshops across the city
- Creation of a funding plan including funding bids made for sustainability and future development

RISKS

Risk	Mitigation
The funding for this work is fixed term 12-month non-recurring for the financial year 24/25.	The funding application process specified that projects must evidence sustainability.
The Home Office only confirmed the conditions of the grant on the 30 th May and therefore the funds have not been released to the Council and the projects have not received any funding to date.	Preparation work for all projects has been taking place since February 2023 and all projects have made progress.

NEXT STEPS

The funding conditions of grant will be finalised and signed off and funding will be issued to all the commissioned areas of work. The Crime Sub Group will commence and will monitor delivery of the Serious Violence Reduction Action Plan.