

SAFER PLYMOUTH



A community where people feel safe and secure

**Preventing and Reducing
Serious Violence in Plymouth**

Serious Violence Duty

- Serious Violence Duty – ‘specified authorities’ required to collaborate in local efforts to reduce and prevent serious violence
 - ✓ Police - Devon and Cornwall Police
 - ✓ Local authorities – Plymouth City Council
 - ✓ Justice – National Probation Service and Youth Justice Service
 - ✓ Fire and rescue – Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
 - ✓ Health Authorities – NHS Devon
- Educational institutions and prisons/youth custodial establishments ‘duty to cooperate’
- Communities and VCSE key to understanding issues and developing responses
- OPCC has a convening role for coordinating efforts across Peninsula, allocating funding and monitoring progress

Public Health Approach

- Public Health approach that recognises the wider determinants – the factors that may contribute to the likelihood of being a victim or perpetrator of violence
- Many of the factors that shape health and social outcomes including deprivation, engagement in education, exposure to violence and drug and alcohol use in the family are also determinants of serious violence
- Focus on reducing risk factors and building protective factors
- Three levels of prevention – primary, secondary and tertiary
- Key focus on primary prevention – stopping it before it occurs – will reduce violence over time

Needs Assessment

- April 2021/March 22 – 22,477 **overall crimes** – violence against the person accounts for 35% of all crimes
- **Violence against Person with injury** – 3,724 crimes - a 25% increase from the previous year - 54% victims male & available data indicates that 75% of people committing crimes male and 25% female
- **Domestic Abuse** – 4,884 crimes – 73% victims female and available data indicates most offenders male
- **Sexual Assault** (rape and other sexual offences) – 1,318 crimes – 25% increase on previous year 84% victims female and available data indicates that 98% offenders male
- **Drug Offences** - 1,226 drug offences – possession nearly 80% of crimes data indicates 83% of people committing these crimes were male
- City Centre, Stonehouse, Greenbank and the University are the neighbourhoods most affected by reported violent crimes
- Most Similar Family Group – overall rate of crime is lowest in group, violence with injury 2nd highest, sexual offences 3rd highest

What People Have Told Us

- Lots of people don't feel safe in their local area at night esp. YP and women
- Some people esp. women don't feel safe at home
- Some young people regularly witness violence in their homes
- Online violence and harms cause concerns
- Primary prevention approaches are key to breaking cycles of violence
- Importance of early education re healthy relationships
- Challenge of developing a social movement for behavioural and cultural change?

We need to think more of the impact of domestic abuse has on the children within abusive relationships

If you asked any girl they would probably say that they felt unsafe walking after dark

Men have to take responsibility and take the lead to make society different, going forward.

The Model for Violence Prevention

- Violence is preventable. Everyone has a role in preventing violence.
- Our vision is for Plymouth to be a place where everyone can lead their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.
- Need multiple and reinforcing approaches including:
 - **Challenging harmful cultural and social norms**
 - **Adopting trauma responsive approaches and practice**
 - **Sharing the responsibility for supporting victims and people who cause harm**
 - **Maximising opportunities to expand relational based programmes and initiatives**

Our Response

- We have received £125k non recurrent funding from the Home Office
- Safer Plymouth have used this allocation to fund 7 projects
 1. Purple Flag - £3k
 2. Man Culture - £15k
 3. Impact project - £33,950
 4. Serious Violence Bystander Training £22,500
 5. Preventing Offending in Child Sexual Abuse £15,700
 6. HARm Prevention Phase 2 £7,650
 7. Community Projects £17k
- We did allocate some funding to a Pan Devon Speech and Language Therapy Project, but this project has ceased due to resource issues and this funding will be reallocated.

Our Response

1. Purple Flag

- Award and recognition programme promote a safe Night-time Economy

2. Man Culture

- Influence and change culture to reduce male violence

3. Impact project

- Intervening early with children who the Police and Youth Justice Service believe are at risk of entering the criminal justice system, particularly those children who have been the victims of, or witness to domestic violence with the aim of addressing their behaviour as soon as possible.

4. Serious Violence Bystander Training

- Active bystander trained to recognise potentially harmful situations or interact and choosing to respond in a way that could positively influence the outcome.
- Currently out to tender will include Plymouth owned training package and training of people to become Plymouth trainers.

Our Response

5. Preventing Offending in Child Sexual Abuse

- Have trained 60 people raising awareness and confidence in working with those who have sexually harmed
- Stop It Now Campaign will commence August 24 – aim is to encourage people worried about their own thoughts or behaviours to access help and intervene before any offence is committed.

6. HARm Prevention Phase 2

- Scoping project investigating possible community-based services for secondary level prevention i.e. people who have enduring sexual thoughts and feelings about children, but have never offended, and / or they have never sexually harmed anybody.

7. Community Projects

- Projects to address community concerns including Anti-Racism Bystander training.