

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
Date:	4 February 2020
Title:	Hampshire County Council's Violence Reduction Unit
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to brief the Children and Families Advisory Panel on the background, progress and plans for the development of a Violence Reduction Unit in Hampshire County Council.

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Children and Families Advisory Panel notes the progress made in developing a Violence Reduction Unit and receive progress reports at suitable intervals.

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to:
 - Provide the background to Violence Reduction Units and their link to the Government's Strategy on Violent Crime.
 - Describe the Public Health approach to creating Violence Reduction Units.
 - Identify how the money is being spent for the year 2019/20
 - Detail the requirements for developing the Violence Reduction Unit 2020/21

Contextual Information

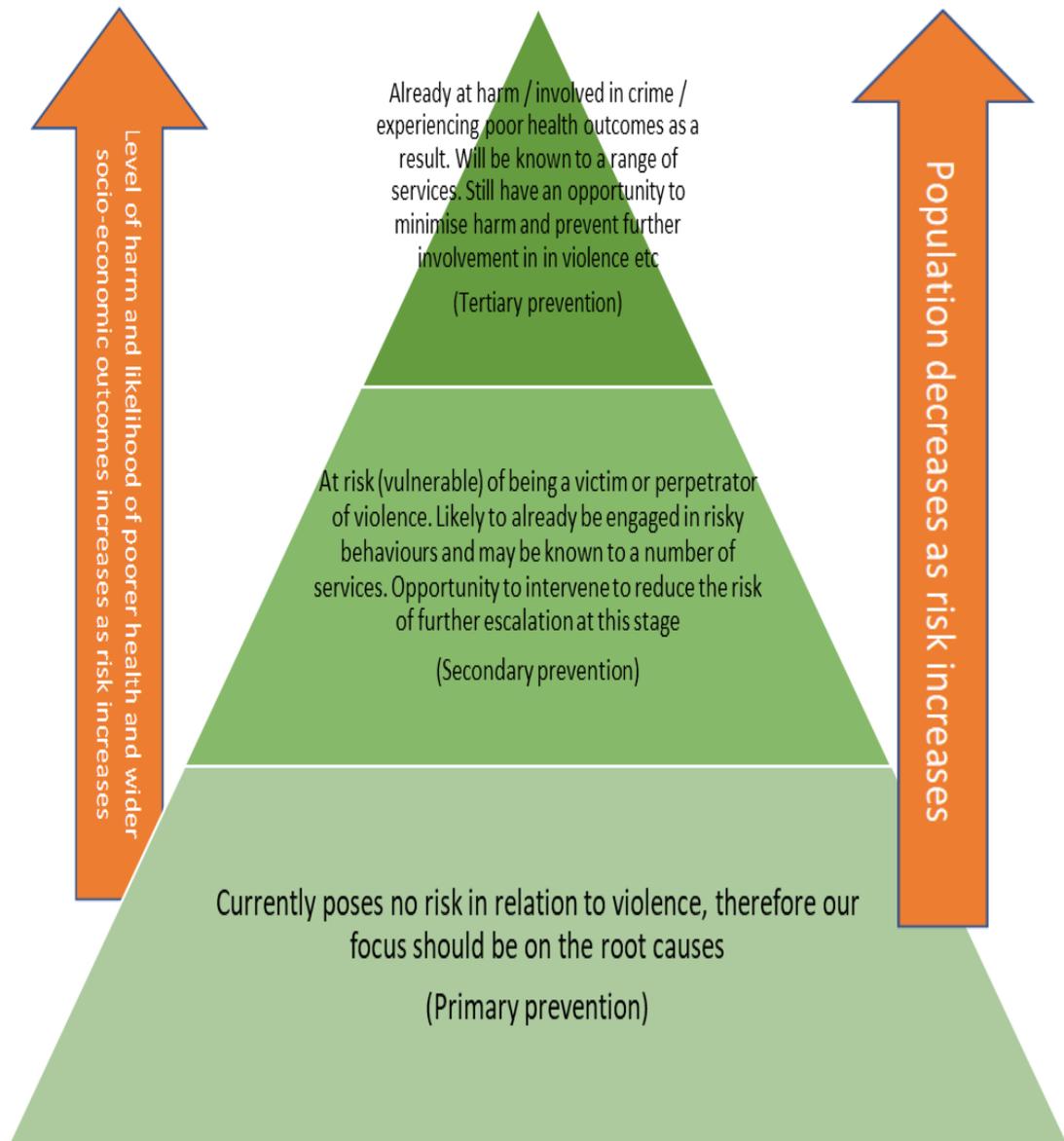
4. In April 2018 the government published its Serious Violence Strategy which set out the response to serious violence including knife crime, gun crime and homicide. The strategy places emphasis on early intervention and prevention, recognising the need to tackle the root causes of violence and prevent young people from becoming involved in crime in the first place. The strategy also recognised that the key to achieving good outcomes is with a partnership approach.

5. On 12th August 2019 the government announced that Hampshire's Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) was one of 18 areas to be granted a share of £35m to set up a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This share was in the region of £880,000.
6. Violence Reduction Units are designed to work with children and young adults between 14 and 25 years. They bring together different organisations, including the police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime. This initial allocation of £880,000 must be spent by March 2020.
7. Violence Reduction Units take a Public Health Approach to understand and prevent violence. It uses evidence to understand the underlying causes and then targets interventions to address these causes. The Diagram below identifies the *steps of a Public Health Approach*:



Source: Adapted from World Health Organisation, 2019

8. These interventions are directed towards three distinct groups: a broad section of the population (universal or primary prevention), specific groups who are at risk (targeted selected or secondary prevention) and those who have already experienced violence (targeted indicated or tertiary prevention). The graphic below provides a visual description of the approach:



9. Accordingly, Violence Reduction Units will be required to allocate their resources in accordance with the above model.
10. Hampshire's OPCC share was £880,000, this was to be divided between the four Local Authorities with a proportion of the money going to the OPCC to oversee the development of the VRUs. Each Local Authority was allocated a proportion of the money to set up its own Violence Reduction Unit. These units were required to have a coordinator, analyst and administrator. Hampshire County Council was awarded £65,000 to set up its unit.
11. The remaining money was to provide the interventions. This money was distributed between the four authorities in accordance with the amount of violent crime committed in the area over the previous three years. Hampshire Local Authority was awarded £233,000 to provide these interventions. As this money must be spent by 31 March 2020, Local Authorities were advised to spend on interventions already commissioned or being delivered provided the

interventions linked to what was known to impact on violent crime.

12. Following consultation with partners the £233,000 is to be spent in the following way:

- Extension of Youth Crime Prevention to provide workers to Hampshire Pupil Referral Units in order to prevent children becoming involved in serious violence and criminal exploitation. This project will link with Children's Services specialist Willow Team that supports/protects children at risk of sexual/criminal exploitation.
Money allocated = £58,000
- Extension of Targeted Family Support currently commissioned by the Supporting Families Programme. 33 additional Intensive Family Support places will be funded delivered by current providers.
Money allocated = £80,000
- Money to the Willow Team to spot purchase mentoring from the St Giles Trust. This is for young people who are already being criminally exploited.
Money allocated = £25,000
- Money to Hampshire and the IOW Community Rehabilitation Company to develop a programme to target those 18 to 25-year olds who are at risk.
Money allocated = £12,000
- The development of education packages for both children and parents on the risks around violence and criminal exploitation.
Money allocated = £10,000
- Funding an additional training course to enable staff in Children's Services to deliver an intervention on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to children and their parents. In addition, the funding of a 'train the trainer' course for Stop Domestic Abuse.
Money allocated = £21,172
- A series of small grants to organisations supported by Community Safety Partnerships.
Money allocated = £25,000

13. Given the requirement to spend this money by 31 March 2020 and the challenges this presents it is likely that there will be some flexibility to move money around the different strands in order to ensure that maximum benefit is achieved.

Performance

14. There is a series of requirements that Local Authorities must adhere to in setting up its Violence Reduction Unit. This includes taking a Public Health Approach and the nature of the Core Membership.

15. Public Health are managing the grant and are responsible for providing quarterly narrative updates to the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC). These reports must cover; progress on the delivery of the core function of the Violence Reduction Units, including its core membership, adherence to delivering a multi-agency public health approach, the number of young people supported by the identified interventions, and details of the money spent against the allocated funding. Any underspend is to be repaid at the end of the year.
16. Regarding the interventions specific performance information is in part dependent on the area where the money is allocated and the existing frameworks of the intervention. For example, the Intensive Family Support workers will report under the existing Supporting Family Programme contractual framework. In other areas, additional data is sought to measure outcomes, for example each of the young people in the Youth Crime Prevention Service will undertake a distance travelled tool.
17. There is also a requirement to involve the OPCC's Youth Commission in consulting with the any young people receiving a service. This includes consideration of one to one session and focus groups.

Consultation and Equalities

18. No public consultation has been required at this stage. However, key partners have been fully involved in setting up the Violence Reduction Units, including decisions on how the money for interventions was spent.
19. One overall Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed and has not been submitted as part of this report today. This is because any impact on equalities would be specific to each the organisations receiving the monies, and one overarching assessment would not capture the detail required. Further, the current year's spending plan is aimed at enhancing existing activity of County Council and partner services which will address the known protective and risk factors for serious violence.

Other Key Issues

20. It is expected that Violence Reduction Units will continue to be funded from 2020/21. However, at this stage it is not clear how much money will be available. It is possible that the same money will be allocated but will cover the full year rather than the last five months of 2019/20.
21. To decide how this money will be spent in future, the OPCC oversees a process whereby Local Authorities are required to undertake an analysis of relevant data. They are required to produce a 'Problem Profile' which identifies where resources should be directed to address the risk of violent crime and build resilience in communities and individuals.

22. Hampshire's Problem Profile was submitted to the OPCC on 31st December 2019. This is a dynamic document with more data being added as it is provided.

23. From the Problem Profile a response strategy is to be completed and submitted to the OPCC by 29th February 2020. This includes the services to be commissioned from 1st April 2020 which are key to addressing violent crime.

Conclusions

24. The announcement that Hampshire OPCC was one of 18 areas selected to receive funding to set up Violence Reduction Units (VRU) came in August 2019. Hampshire Local Authority was awarded a total of £300,00 to set up its VRU and deliver interventions which will have an impact on violent crime. Significant progress has been made in a short space of time. However, there is much more to be done. Therefore, the panel is invited to note this report and to request an update within a suitably defined time frame.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
The Governments Serious Violence Strategy https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf	<u>Date</u> April 2018

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*