



Policies and Procedures

Supplementary Guidance

Serious Youth Violence Protocol

August 2019

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Protocol is to be read together with the overarching Youth @ Risk Strategy, a multi-agency commitment to working together to prevent all exploitation of children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset. The shared vision is for all children and young people and their families and communities to be safe from all forms of criminal exploitation and the values and approaches set out in the Youth @ Risk Strategy fully apply here. This is one of six protocols that underpin the Youth @ Risk Strategy.

1.2 Serious violence is attracting a lot of national attention and this Protocol has been produced whilst there is continuing consultation about and piloting of new legislation. Under the national Serious Violence Strategy, Bath and North East Somerset has recently been awarded funding to establish a Violence Reduction Unit in partnership with the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Local Authorities. By March 2020, the Violence Reduction Unit is charged with producing an all age serious violence profile and response plan, with a particular focus on under 25s. This Protocol is likely to be subject to early revision in light of this work.

1.3 According to the Crime in England and Wales report for the year ending December 2018¹, there was a 6% increase in the number of police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments which is consistent with an increasing trend over the last few years, 6% increase in the number of homicides which continues an upward trend in homicides since March 2014 but remains a low-volume crime, and no change in the level of lower-harm violent offences (e.g. violence without injury and assault with minor injury). Police also recorded “possession of an article with a blade or point” offences rose by 20% in the year ending December 2018 which is consistent with increases over the last five years (although this figure can often be influenced by increases in targeted police action in relation to knife crime), and the Ministry of Justice data shows that the criminal justice system formally dealt with the highest number of knife and offensive weapon offences since 2009. Recorded firearms offences decreased by 2 percent compared with the previous year, in contrast with recent years where there has been a rising trend.

1.4 The government’s response has been through publication of a national Strategy in April 2018. It addresses four key themes:

- Tackling county lines and the misuse of drugs – this is addressed locally in the Criminal Exploitation Protocol;
- Early intervention and prevention – this is addressed here by commitment to take a Public Health approach, drawing on evidence-based practice wherever possible and evaluating our own work in order to contribute to a growing body of knowledge and tools;
- Supporting communities and partnerships – this is being addressed by consultation and participation of young people and promoting bolder information sharing practices in order to target resources. We also intend to communicate with recognised community groups;
- Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response – this is addressed here through consideration of disruption activity undertaken in the main by Police but depending on the active participation of all agencies through information sharing.

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingdecember2018#latest-figures>

1.5 Bath and North East Somerset is an area of relatively low reported crime and year-on-year, fewer young people are entering the formal youth justice system. The number of local young people who admit or are convicted of serious violence including possession of a knife is low and most of them can be worked with outside the Court system. However, this low number is increasing locally as well and young people themselves have said they believe that knife crime in particular is under-reported. A key priority is to undertake a more detailed analysis of data from across partner agencies in order to better understand the scale and nature of the issue locally. The intention is to learn from what has worked well elsewhere to keep young people and the wider community safe. This includes direct work with children but also actively working to disrupt organised crime groups who perpetrate serious violence against young people and/or encourage them to engage in it themselves. The local ambition is to keep incidences of serious youth violence as low as possible and promote public confidence and community safety.

1.6 Responsibility for this protocol sits jointly with the Youth Offending Service Management Board and the Exploitation sub group and both will receive annual reports of outputs and outcomes of this work. Reports may also be made available to the Children's Health and Wellbeing Steering Group.

2. Definitions

2.1 There is no national definition of serious violence. The national Serious Violence Strategy (April 2018), developed to address concerning rises in knife crime and homicide in inner-city areas, focuses on crimes related to the spread of exploitation by so-called 'county lines.'² The Youth Justice Board has suggested that serious youth violence includes violent offences with high gravity score, including homicide, robbery, violence against the person and possession of drugs and/or weapons. The Early Intervention Foundation defines it as "community/public space violence committed by young people under the age of 25"³, while the World Report on Violence and Health defines it as "violence that occurs among individuals aged 10-29 years who may or may not know each other, and generally takes place outside of the home"⁴.

2.2 The national Serious Violence Strategy and the Youth Justice Board exclude sexual violence and domestic abuse from their definitions of serious violence. We recognise that young people can be exploited into and through sexual violence and that the issues do overlap. Some young people's experience and behaviour may be addressed in more than one of the local Youth @ Risk protocols. The Harmful Sexual Behaviour Protocol focuses on young people as perpetrators of harmful sexual behaviour and the Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol tackles the issue of young people as victims. Domestic abuse can take the form of serious violence including physical and/or sexual violence and this is led by the Domestic Abuse Partnership which addresses the needs of victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse, including young people affected as both. The Criminal Exploitation Protocol is directly relevant because serious violence is often used against young people as part of their exploitation, and encouraged of young people as they become drawn into illegal activity. They may be threatened or 'punished' by serious violence themselves. Some carry a knife believing it will keep them safe, and some may be required to engage in serious violence to support drug dealing or other illegal activity.

² Networks used for drug dealing, usually across county borders, by organised groups or gangs who may groom and exploit children into illegal activity

³ <https://www.eif.org.uk/report/preventing-gang-and-youth-violence-spotting-signals-of-risk-and-supporting-children-and-young-people/>

⁴ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/181008/9789241509251_eng.pdf;jsessionid=B58F1E4D54EAC9C64E3E9C02654EB969?sequence=1

2.3 Serious violence is often attributed to ‘gangs.’ This term means different things to different communities be it a group with a very specific identity, territory and hierarchy, a street-based group which becomes drawn into low-level or more serious violence, or a group of young people hanging about on the street corner. There is a continuing discussion about whether we recognise any local groupings of young people as ‘gangs,’ with professionals having different perspectives. However, there is also increasing recognition of external gang interest and activity in this area, including known ‘county-lines’ from London and the West Midlands. These gangs may be represented by adults or other exploited children trafficked into Bath and North East Somerset, for example, to sell drugs. This impacts directly on local young people who may be groomed into illegal activity through the promise of quick money and status and then exploited through the creation of a ‘drug debt’ or violent or sexual assault into continuing to offend. They may then feel trapped in a lifestyle that they have not consented to and be fearful of disclosing this to trusted adults for fear of ‘punishment.’ The [NSPCC have a webpage](#) which provides information about gangs, why young people might join them, and where they can turn if they are afraid.

2.4 However, it is clear that gangs are only part of the picture and that serious violence takes place in a variety of contexts. Although local young people have been convicted of serious violence involving weapons, some of the serious violence experienced is undertaken by two or more young people using their fists and feet to inflict serious injuries, without any obvious organised exploitation underpinning the behaviour.

2.5 At a universal level, this Protocol is relevant to all young people living in Bath and North East Somerset who may be frightened by what they hear and see online and in real life, even if they are not directly involved. It seeks to address young people’s risk of involvement in one or more of the following, particularly where there is reason to believe they have been exploited:

- Possession of a knife or other weapon regardless of any intention to use it;
- Threat of violence with a weapon;
- Violence where weapons are used;
- Any violence where young people may have been groomed, adversely influenced or coerced by others;
- Violence committed by groups of young people or young people and adults;
- Violence perpetrated against repeat and/or vulnerable victims;
- Possession of drugs with intent to supply;
- Robbery;
- Homicide.

3. Principles

a. Young people’s safety is paramount;

b. Those involved in serious violence are to be treated as children first and offenders second;

c. Many who behave violently have themselves been victims and may continue to be victims. Some are traumatised as a result of their experience and work with them needs to take full account of this. The complex reality is that young people are sometimes victims and perpetrators and because of this, or of a fear of possible retribution, they do not have confidence to report when they are harmed. Staff may sometimes need to talk through these issues with young people and Police can advise on how they can keep themselves safe;

d. All screening and assessment of children and young people in relation to their risk of committing serious violence needs to take full account of what they say and of evidence-based risk and protective factors and interventions need to be informed by what is known to be effective;

e. It is important to hear the voice of the child at all levels of this work. All children and young people are affected by this issue to some extent and we will continue to hear what they have to say, including those who believe this sort of crime is under-reported. Some are frightened and want more information about how to report knife crime and how to keep themselves safe – we will help them to access this;

f. Parents/carers may feel out of their depth and may benefit from practical information and opportunity to discuss what they can do to help keep their child(ren) safe;

g. Where serious violence has occurred, separate consideration will be given to the victim's support and safeguarding needs in accordance with usual safeguarding procedures, including calling a separate Strategy meeting. Where the victim is aged over 18, safeguarding adult principles and procedures may apply.

h. Agencies addressing this issue need to focus on disrupting the adults and networks behind the young people;

i. We are developing a more contextualised approach to safeguarding and recognise that the risk of serious violence increases in certain geographical, social or other contexts;

j. Staff who work to address this issue may be profoundly affected themselves and need relevant training and regular, reflective Supervision. Supervisors may benefit from an understanding compassion fatigue and how to assist their supervisees with managing this.

4. Risk and Protective Factors

4.1 The development of this Protocol was informed by a Public Health literature review. The Early Intervention Foundation has published risk and protective factors for young people becoming drawn into serious violence (see appendix A). Most of these were individual factors including being troublesome (ages 7-9; 10-12), high daring (ages 10-12), having a positive attitude towards delinquency (ages 10-12), having previously committed offences (ages 7-9), involvement in anti-social behaviour (ages 10-12), use of substances (ages 7-9), aggression (ages 7-9), running away and truancy (ages 7-9; 10-12; 13-15; 16-25), gang membership (ages 13-15; 16-25), low self-esteem (ages 13-15) and high psychopathic features (ages 13-15). Running away and truancy stands out as a risk factor across all age groups. Protective factors mitigating the risk of involvement in serious violence include having a belief in moral order, positive/prosocial attitudes, low impulsivity, stable family structure and management, infrequent parent-child conflict and high academic achievement.

4.2 Bellis et al (2012) identified similar risk factors for youth violence, stating they can be cumulative in effect and can interact in different ways to affect vulnerability to violence, and that different types of violence have specific risk factors. Examples for risk factors for youth violence are listed below:

- Male gender (although young women do sometimes become involved in serious violence). It can be viewed as part of young people's (mis)understanding about their identity and what masculinity means
- Neglect and abuse in childhood, domestic abuse and other adverse childhood experiences
- Personality traits e.g. hyperactivity/ conduct disorder
- Poor family functioning
- Delinquent peers and gang involvement
- Living in a high crime area
- Alcohol consumption
- Social inequality

4.3 A World Health report on actions for ending violence against children, (see Appendix B) also summarises similar risk and protective factors.

4.4 The Millennium Cohort Study [report](#) examines the risk factors linked to serious violence, and how such factors can be used to identify individuals for intervention draws on two UK-based surveys to determine the factors most strongly associated with serious violence linked behaviours.⁵ The factors found to be mostly strongly associated are gender, number of siblings in the household, experience of child maltreatment, lack of self-control, early puberty, experience of victimisation, frequency of truanting, bullying, self-harm, risk taking/gambling, feeling isolated, and having previously committed minor violence, theft, public disorder and/or cybercrime.

5. Addressing Serious Youth Violence: What Works

5.1 There is a growing body of evidence of effective approaches to tackling serious youth violence – and also an improving understanding of what is not effective. Examples of promising approaches are also included in the Knowledge and Learning Insights on Preventing Serious Youth Violence – What Works?⁶ These highlight the importance of partnership approaches and linking with specialist mental health support;

5.2 Contextual safeguarding

There is increasing recognition of the need for tailored safeguarding approaches where (some of the) risks to children lie beyond their immediate home environment. Locally, contextual safeguarding practices are being developed, drawing on the work of the Contextual Safeguarding Network.⁷ These seek to prevent, identify, assess and intervene in the social environment for the abuse both within and beyond the family, through the involvement of relevant multi-agency partnerships. This includes focusing on the physical environments and venues where children are groomed and planning to bring about change to reduce this risk and establishing safe places for young people to go.

5.3 Trauma-informed approaches

Many children and young people who behave violently have experienced adverse childhood experiences including abuse, neglect or other trauma – and this experience may be ongoing. The commitment, including within the youth justice system, is to

⁵ An analysis of indicators of serious violence: findings from the Millennium Cohort Study and the Environmental Risk Longitudinal Study, July 2019

⁶ Ann-Mari Hall and Emma Ackerman, Big Lottery Fund 2018

⁷ Initiated by Carlene Firmin, Bedford University

view them as children first and to prioritise their own safety and wellbeing in a holistic way. Until this is done, it will not be possible to effectively address their behaviour in a way that supports lasting change. Once children are in a safe place to do so, it will be important to understand what has happened to them and to utilise trauma-informed and trauma-recovery approaches in work undertaken. The Youth Offending Service is now piloting a trauma-informed approach to community supervision for young people who have offended (Enhanced Case Management).

5.4 Adaptive Mentalisation-Based Integrative Treatment (AMBIT)

Staff who work in the Youth Offending Service and the Adolescent Risk Team with traumatised young people use the AMBIT approach in their work. This set of mentalisation tools for use with young people, colleagues or wider networks helps support the development of local evidence-based practice and provides a framework for local improvement and learning.⁸

6. Public Health Approach

We are taking a Public Health approach⁹ to ensuring the problem of serious youth violence does not increase, focusing on the well-being of the whole community. The Local Government Association's adaptation of the World Health Organisation's characteristics of public health approaches to serious violence includes the following:

a. Defining the problem

Many organisations record information relevant to serious youth violence, but it is held in separate databases and is not always easy to report on or analyse. Developing systems which consistently collect specific data, and sharing it effectively between relevant agencies, can support the design of effective interventions and maximisation of their impact. For example, the Cardiff Model is a multi-agency approach to violence prevention that relies on strategic use of information from health and law enforcement organisations. It involves reception staff in emergency departments collecting data about violent incidents from patients who present with assault-related injuries (e.g. location, time, day, weapon used), anonymising the data, analysing it and combining it with police intelligence. This information is then shared with a group of representatives from many agencies (healthcare, law enforcement, other government agencies, and community organisations), and can be used to predict, prevent and prepare for violence across the local area. It can also inform local prevention strategies and contribute to effective injury and violence prevention policies. The Police and Crime Commissioner is interested in exploring how this approach can be developed across Avon and Somerset.¹⁰

b. Understanding the causes of violence

This involves taking an evidence-led approach and applying wider knowledge and experience to identify local risk and protective factors;

c. Working on solutions and testing them out

These should be developed and agreed between stakeholders, and be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time bounded. The strategy should link to wider strategic and policy context, collaboration with local partners (including community), to ensure local ownership;

⁸ Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families (info@annafreud.org)

⁹ https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.32%20-%20Reducing%20family%20violence_03.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cardiffmodeltoolkit.pdf>

d. Implementation

Delivery needs to ensure the model implemented stays loyal and is delivered as closely to the original as possible, taking careful consideration of context. Promoting universal harm prevention initiatives, particularly in schools, gives young people the information they want and skills to develop positive relationships and increase aspiration and self-esteem. There needs to be robust evaluation and monitoring and it needs to inform commissioning of new services.

7. Universal Provision

7.1 System-wide support for all young people to have the best possible start in life is fundamental. This includes:

- All agencies working together to prevent childhood adversity;
- Improving outcomes for all children through universal services with a focus on narrowing the attainment gap;
- Supporting children to develop social and emotional skills to develop positive relationships and know who they can trust;
- Helping children develop language and communication skills to help them avoid and/or manage conflict;
- Supporting parents/carers to be good role models and care givers for their children;
- Taking a long-term view and learning from young people and parents/carers about what is effective locally.

7.2 Schools' Personal, Health, Social and Economic education (PHSE) and other interventions in universal settings will be based on what is known to be most effective – and take full account of what is not effective (e.g. approaches that attempt to 'scare' children into doing the right thing can be counter-productive and increase the risk of violence). Interactive, theatre-based opportunities for young people to develop their understanding and reflect on or practice their responses are encouraged.

7.3 Young people spending time in public areas after school and into the evening maybe at risk of grooming into exploitative situations. They may benefit from detached youth work and the availability of safe places to spend time and/or seek information and support from trusted adults and professionals. This will include building on existing initiatives and facilities e.g. libraries but may extend to provision of dedicated space for young people.

7.4 Based on feedback from young people, they will be supported to produce materials and information to help them understand what they can do if they have a concern about violence and/or someone carrying a knife or concern about gangs. This information will be made widely available to young people.

7.5 Based on feedback from staff, information will be made available about how to safeguard young people and themselves if they believe someone is carrying a knife or if someone is threatened with a knife, and how to make a proportionate response. This could be shared through the Council Instagram page for young people and in leaflet/card form.

8. Targeted Prevention and Diversion

8.1 Appendix D contains information about a range of local services and initiatives relevant to addressing serious violence. We intend to build on these, including by using recognised risk factors to pilot a targeted early intervention with young people in Year 6 or 7. This will teach skills in understanding who to trust and in building positive relationships with peers and adults. Children will be linked with a trusted adult (ideally one of their parents/carers) who will be supported to help them apply what they have learned for a period of 12 months.

8.2 When concerns come to light about a child's behaviour, evidence-informed risk and protective factors will inform an Early Help Assessment. The local Early Help Strategy promotes the importance of providing the right help at the right time and the value of taking a multi-agency approach to planning and reviewing the support available for young people and their families.

8.3 Young people who come to Police attention for the first time for possession of a knife will always be considered for an informal or Out of Court Disposal. Every effort will be made not to criminalise these young people and rather to understand and address the reasons for their actions.

9. Multi-agency Planning and Intervention

9.1 Following any assessment, a well-co-ordinated multi-agency plan is key to facilitating safe and effective work and it also promotes information sharing. This should be integrated, in most cases, with the existing service case-management processes such as Team around the Child, Child in Need, Looked After Child or through the Core Group meetings. To avoid delay, call an early review or additional meeting if necessary to ensure timely action is taken to intervene and ensure safety.

9.2 Upon completion of the assessment, the allocated worker will convene a multi-agency planning meeting with all relevant agencies, including education and parents/carers wherever possible. The plan needs to:

- address all assessed needs, not just the sexual behaviour concerns, and takes account of the child/young person's learning and neurodevelopmental ability
- support the child/young person to build a positive social identity free from harmful sexual behaviour
- be reviewed in a timely way and takes account of any changes in risk
- make effective use of the safety plan framework to address any specific risk of further harmful sexual behaviour, including via technology where appropriate
- Where direct intervention work is indicated to address sexual behaviour concerns identified in the assessment report, trained intervention workers can be drawn primarily from the virtual team. Allocation should be discussed between team managers, taking account of the need to promote continuity of relationship.
- Provide clear information to the family regarding any planned interventions, and ensure parents are included in the work.

10. Disruption

10.1 Police operations and other multi-agency mapping exercises generate information about potential and actual perpetrators. There is a range of initiatives that can be employed to make it harder for adults to groom young people including Gang Injunctions, Child Abduction Warning Notices, Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, Sexual Risk Orders, Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders, Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders, referral to the National Referral Mechanism, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Non-Molestation Orders, Exclusion Orders and Wardship. Details of these can be found in the Criminal Exploitation Protocol. In some instances, these measures can be used with under 18 year olds but only in consultation with the Youth Offending service.

10.2 The new Offensive Weapons Act 2019 makes it illegal to possess dangerous weapons in private as well as in public, bans the sale of corrosive materials to under 18-year-olds, makes it an offence to possess a corrosive substance in a public place, bans private possession of flick knives and gravity knives, bans the possession, manufacture and sale of rapid firing rifles and makes it a criminal offence to sell bladed products online without verifying the buyer is over 18.

10.3 The Act also introduces Knife Crime Prevention Orders, enabling Courts to place restrictions on individuals to help the Police manage those at risk in the community. These are to be piloted prior to national roll out.

10.4 There is a continuing consultation on a new public health duty to report young people who may be in danger and/or at risk of serious violence

11. Youth Justice

11.1 Out of Court Disposal

Based on the assessment, the Out of Court Disposal Panel can decide to issue the young person with a Community Resolution, a Caution with Voluntary Programme, a Youth Conditional Caution or recommend that the young person be charged to Court. Following the 'child first' principle, the matter will always be dealt with at the least intrusive level, whilst ensuring that assessed need for support in relation to the risk of violence is provided.

11.2 Referral Orders

If a young person is sentenced to a Referral Order, the Panel report will take full account of risk and protective factors, to inform the intervention plan.

11.3 Enhanced Case Management / Community Sentences

Young people convicted of serious violence will be considered for a place on the pilot trauma-informed enhanced case management initiative. Assessment and planning will take full account of the known risk and protective factors for serious violence. Interventions will draw on the growing body of knowledge about effective (and ineffective) practice. Currently, the Oxfordshire Serious Violence Toolkit is used with young people who are ready to engage in work to address their behaviour.

11.4 Custodial Sentence

If the Court is considering custody, it will be necessary to request an adjournment to carry out a Pre-Sentence Report to explore all possible community options. If the young person is

sentenced to custody, then all assessments which evidence their vulnerability will be used to inform the assessment of vulnerability which is shared with the custodial setting. This will also take account of the placement of any co-defendant, particularly if the relationship is considered to be exploitative. The youth Offending Service and any allocated social Worker will continue to support the young person throughout their custodial sentence and upon return to the community.

11.5 Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

Under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, MAPPA protects the public from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders. Young people sentenced to a custodial sentence of 12 months or more will be referred in to MAPPA. Most will managed at Level 1 by the Youth Offending Service but where the young person presents a high or very high risk and needs multi agency oversight, they are managed at Level 2 by a multi-agency partnership including Social Care, Police and Health. Exceptionally, where strategic oversight is necessary because of cross-border, media or public interest issues, they are managed at Level 3.

12. Measuring Impact

Collation and analysis of the following data will be used to measure the impact of this Protocol:

- a. Reduction in first time entrants for relevant offences
- b. Reduction in re-offending in relevant offences
- c. Reduction in custody for relevant offences
- d. Reduction in Police intelligence re knife possession
- e. Reduction in Police reports of known youth serious violence
- f. Reduction in number of people presenting at Accident and Emergency as victims of knife crime
- g. Victim satisfaction with approach taken and benefit to them
- h. Improved engagement in ETE
- i. Young people's satisfaction
- j. Parent/carer satisfaction
- k. Reduction in requests for service related to serious violence

Appendix A: Risk and Protective Factors for Youth Violence

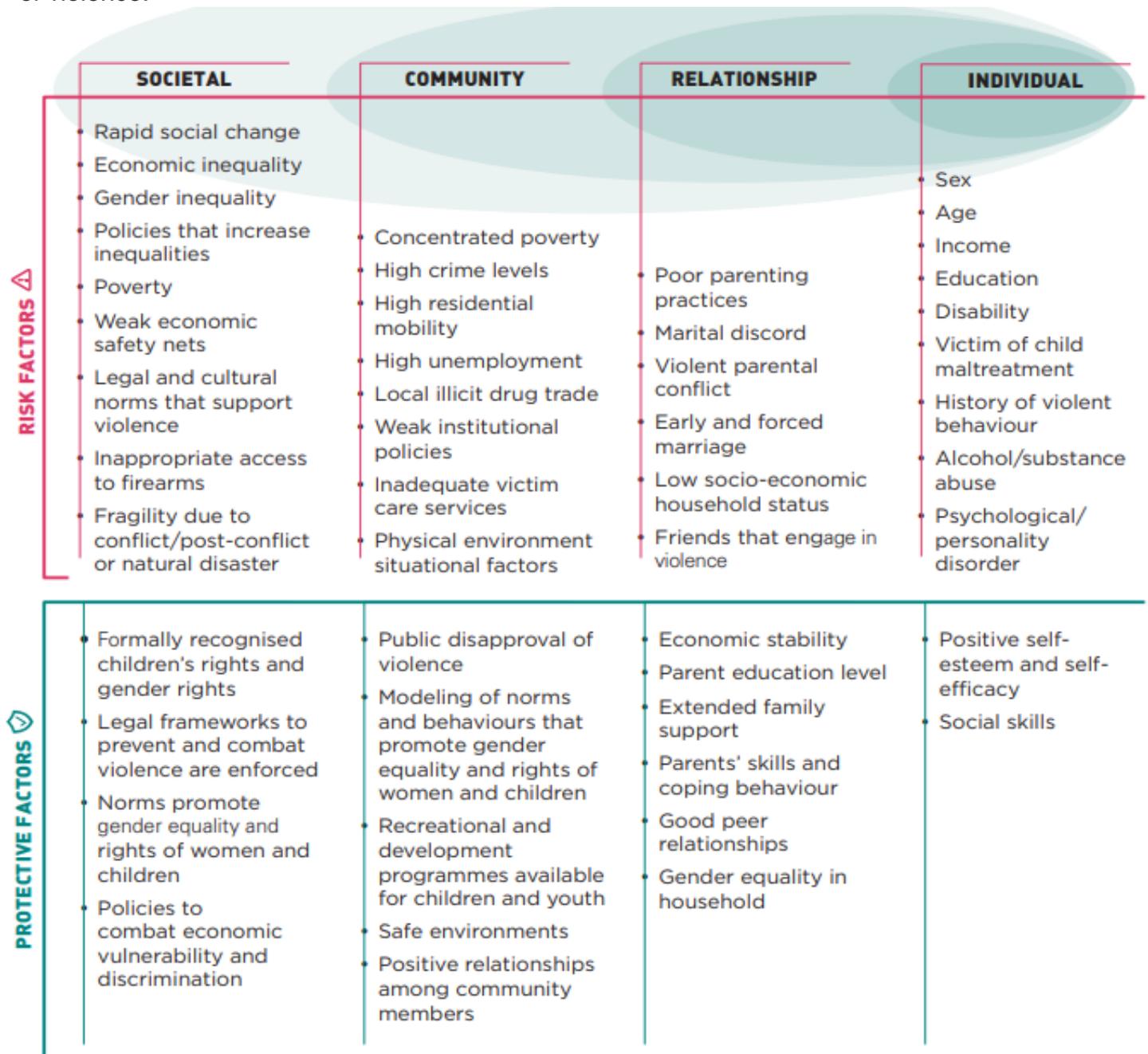
The following has been adapted from the Early Intervention Foundation’s review of risk and protective factors (2015)¹¹:

Five Domains	Risk factors		Protective factors for youth violence
	Youth violence	Gang involvement	
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troublesome (7-9; 10-12) • High daring (10-12) • Positive attitude towards delinquency (10-12) • Previously committed offences (7-9) • Involved in anti-social behaviour (10-12) • Substance use (7-9) • Aggression (7-9) • Running away and truancy (7-9; 10-12; 13-15; 16-25) • Gang membership (13-15; 16-25) • Low self-esteem (13-15) • High psychopathic features (13-15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana use (10-12) • Displaced aggression traits (13-15) • Anger traits (13-15) • Aggression traits (13-15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief in moral order • Positive/prosocial attitudes • Low impulsivity
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disrupted family (7-9; 10-12; 13-15) • Poor supervision (10-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good family management • Stable family structure • Infrequent parent-child conflict
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low commitment to school (13-15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low academic achievement in primary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High academic achievement

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (10-12) • Learning disability(10-12) 	
Peer Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delinquent peers (7-9; 10-12; 13-15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana availability (10-12) • Neighbourhood youth in trouble (10-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low economic deprivation

Appendix B: World Health Organisation actions for ending violence against children

The following has been adapted from the from WHO's INSPIRE Handbook which outlines actions for ending violence against children (2018). It uses the social ecological model to show how social, economic, and cultural factors can either help protect children or increase their risk of violence:



Appendix C: Mapping approaches to addressing serious youth violence

Serious Violence Strategy (Home Office, 2018)	Breaking the Cycle of Violence (Local Government Association, 2019)	Youth @ Risk Strategy and Serious Youth Violence Protocol (B&NES, 2019)
<p>Strategy focuses on four key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs 2. Early intervention and prevention 3. Supporting communities and partnerships 4. Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response <p>- 14 systematic reviews looking at interventions aimed at reducing aggressive behaviour in individuals aged under 21 was examined for this strategy. 11 of the 14 studies found that early interventions were effective in reducing violent behaviour. Conversely, a study examining effectiveness of a deterrent programme based on “scare tactics” found an increase in violence post-intervention.</p> <p>- Overall, there is emphasis on need for an approach that involves partners across different sectors including police, local authorities, and the private and voluntary sector.</p>	<p>10 keys steps for Councils:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage a multi-agency approach and make sure any strategy addresses the root causes: childhood trauma, social inequality, poverty, mental health problems and education and training. 2. Look to help young offenders into employment and training to ‘break the cycle’. 3. Engage the community. Recruiting community mentors and supporting youth clubs are both good options. 4. Work with schools. 5. Start young. Many of the most proactive councils are working with pupils at the end of primary school. 6. Language is important. Young people caught up in crime are victims as well. 7. Collect the data. Analysing A&E attendances and arrests can help identify trends and hotspots. 8. Streamline referral systems. Some councils are setting up hubs to review and assess cases. 9. Make sure parents and carers know what signs to look out for so they can spot early if children are being exploited. 10. Consider working with other groups, such security guards, as they may be able to spot changes in behaviour and the arrival of criminal gangs. 	<p>Key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child first, offender second 2. Evidence-based risk and protective factors 3. Contextualised safeguarding approaches 4. Trauma-informed 5. Evidence-based interventions 6. System-wide, Public Health approach 7. Multi-agency information-sharing and interventions <p>Key partners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bath and North East Somerset Council 2. Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner 3. Avon & Somerset Police 4. Youth Offending Service 5. Adolescent Risk Team 6. Project 28

Appendix D: Current activities tackling youth violence in B&NES, May 2019

Avon and Somerset Police	Universal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and prosecute serious violence offences looking where appropriate to divert through education or out of court reparation. • Work with partner agencies to signpost and safeguard persons at risk. • Champion education in schools on a range of topics and provide knife surrender bins to take knives off the street. • Operations are run such as Sceptre (knife crime) and Remedy (county lines) to be proactive and identify persons at risk.
	Universal schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for schools – available on Hub
	Targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 dedicated PCSO posts
Children and Families Prevention Service	Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that children are kept safe in B&NES the main Early Help Services meet fortnightly and take referrals that do not meet the threshold for CSC. This is a multi-agency panel where a wide range of services are represented including the YOT, health services and Project 28 / DHI. It is able to respond appropriately and intervene as soon as an issue is raised. The C2/ Request for Service form includes a link to the assessment tools so they can appropriately assess needs as they arise. Early Help Services such as Connecting Families will effectively intervene to support families listed below is an example of how this service works: • Work with identified / referred families with children who have been involved with the criminal justice system. Complete a risk assessment, quickly followed by a full family assessment which would include an inquiry re serious violence • All of the staff are well trained and work with families to build up positive relationships. All are ACES Aware, so they can intervene appropriately. They work in a multi-agency way and will invite the most relevant professionals to the TAF meetings / make referrals to other agencies as required e.g. DHI / GP / probation for support for adults and other services such as Off the Record, School Nurse, Young Carers and / or Project 28 and YOT depending on the issues presented for the children and young people in the family home. • Staff have used other services such as or Focus counselling or on line help such as Kooth and the service has a dedicated Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment worker. All interventions are carried out using motivational interview techniques so the families take control of their own choices therefore staff provide a

		<p>tailored made package of support to work towards positive outcomes. However if parents do not engage staff will escalate their concerns to Children’s Social Care so they are kept safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use positive activities such as Wheels projects, trips out and sports activities to engage young people and take them out of their environment this enable staff to build trusting relationships with young people. • Staff are involved with meetings panels and working groups such as County Lines and Young people’s substance misuse and all info is shared with the team through Team meetings and peer supervision this keeps staff focused on local and national trends and interventions.
	Targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Families Family Mediation (Reducing Parental Conflict) initiative
Children Missing Education Service	Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate information regarding any permanent exclusion relating to violence, whether threatened or actual. • All Children Missing Education Officers will signpost to relevant services where they have become aware of any incident that may indicate possible involvement in violent offending.
Future for Me 16-25 Independent People	Targeted	<p>Care leavers and custody leavers aged 16-21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to one support from a named keyworker, tailored to the individual. Team includes specialists in EET, Mental Health and Resettlement. Support can include, but is not limited to: support with building independent living skills, accessing benefits and housing, signposting to specialist services, accompanying to appointments/court, advocacy, budgeting support, removing barriers to progress (small amounts of financial support available for essential clothing, ID, etc), engaging with the community, rebuilding relationships, managing health, moving into work or training. • Referrals from YOT, leaving care team or other • Future 4 Me works closely with the Leaving Care, YOT and Probation teams. The project is funded until the end of December 2019 and is still accepting referrals.
Schools	Universal Early Intervention	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutorial programme with weekly character development tutorial built into it. This includes many wellbeing themes – including tutorials on ‘what are harmful actions?’, ‘the power of words, and the power of actions’ etc. Includes many deliberate ‘cross-over points’ – so that themes covered in PSHE have a direct relevance to what has been covered in tutorials. PSHE covers things such as violence • ‘Safety and Wellbeing’ evenings for Parents. February 19 for Years 7-9 attended by 120 parents included input from Project 28 re drugs and county lines. • HT completed County Lines training for governors and staff • Actively seek to be on Panels such as this Task Force so that we can be at the forefront of developments. Anything we learn can trickle down immediately into our tutorial programme

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train students into key roles of responsibility – e.g. ‘anti-bullying ambassadors’. These students attend key events and pass key information on. For example, ten of them attended Project 28’s event on Tuesday at the Egg Theatre on serious violence, housing issues and drugs and alcohol (amongst other things) • Welfare offer actively addresses serious violence. Non-teaching staff, pastoral managers attend relevant training to keep up to speed with the latest developments. • New intervention invited in - such as CRUSH’s intervention for those that have witnessed domestic violence
Mentoring Plus	Early Intervention Targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 1:1 support for children and young people facing significant challenges • Trains volunteer mentors to give access to knowledge, techniques and guidance needed to support vulnerable young people • Links young people with a volunteer mentor from their own community and provides 1:1 support, activities and guidance over a 12-month period • Student and Family Support Service (SAFS) provides students, their families and schools with individualised packages of support to reintegrate pupils back into school following a Managed Move or Fair Access to School arrangement • Delivers individual mentoring contracts for schools, supporting students at risk of disengagement and delivery of school peer mentoring programmes • Weekly Youth Reps Group and fortnightly Girls Group promote peer support and engagement with community activities. • Manages Riverside Youth Hub and the delivering of open access activities for local young people on this site. • Members of the Children and Young People’s Voluntary Network, Bath Youth Partnership, Youth Crime Prevention Board and attends the Early Help Allocation Panel
Project 28	Targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with YOT to address county lines and exploitation using workshops, one to ones and group work with videos and worksheets • Challenging knife crime and carrying any weapons with the view to education using case studies of past incidents where young people have been stabbed and died. • Targeting hotspots where young people that gather are carrying knives and challenging why? • On the 26.3.19 - Developing health and independence (DHI) held a Young people’s debate where the questions of knife crime was debated alongside other questions

Youth Connect	Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people ages 11 – 19 and up to 25 with SEND • Individual work with young people to build positive relationships, working in a holistic way to address a range of issues and needs. • Work with NEET young people and young people @risk of NEET to support transitions and getting young people back in to education, training or employment. • Group work programs that look at particularly issues that young people are facing i.e. CRUSH YP and domestic violence, anger managements programs, staying safe online, money management etc • Knife crime activity pack for work with young people. • Youth work in a variety of setting across the area. • Signposting and referral for young people • Multi agency working in a variety of groups and Panels
Youth Offending Service / Compass	Targeted and Statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-18 year olds subject to statutory supervision (Court Orders and Out of Court Disposals) • Assessment of offending; risk of harm to others and a young person’s safety & well-being is completed and plan created to address said needs and risks. • Interventions include: 1:1 cognitive behavioural interventions with young people on risks that underlie youth conflict i.e. peer relationships; self-esteem; constructive use of leisure time; knowledge of health; law; social consequences of use of offensive weapons. We will create a safety plan with them on how to manage risks of violence from others. • Support parents to understand their responsibility to keep child safe including: knowing peers; reporting them missing if they don’t come home; being aware of weapons being kept at home / confiscating them. • Safeguarding: Sharing of information with relevant parties including Police; Social Care and Education. • Participating in B&NES Operational Group for CCE to map the peer contexts where there is a risk of youth violence.