Youth Violence and Knife Crime in Southwark
Definitions

• **Serious Youth Violence (SYV)** is defined as a count of victims for any offence of Most Serious Violence* or Gun Crime*** or Knife Crime**, where the victim is aged 1-19”.

• “Youth Violence (YV) is defined in the same way, but also includes Assault with Injury offences”.

Source: Met Police

*Most Serious Violence: MSV: Homicide and Child Destruction, Attempted Murder, Wounding or other act endangering life, GBH (Part), Causing Death by Dangerous/Careless/ Inconsiderate Driving, Causing Death by Aggravated Vehicle Taking. Assault with injury: ABH and other injury and racially or religiously aggravated ABH and other injury

**Knife Crime: All offences of Murder, attempted murder, threats to kill, manslaughter, infanticide, wounding or carrying out an act endangering life, GBH without intent, ABH and other injury, sexual assault, rape, robbery where a feature code identifying weapon usage (countable as knife crime) has been added to the crime report. Simple possession is excluded (For example, when a police search results in a discovery of possession of a weapon). Please note: data includes where a knife was 'threatened but not seen' from April 2008 onwards.

***Gun: Violence Against the Person, robbery, burglary and sexual offences in which a firearm (defined as a weapon covered by Firearms Acts 1968 to 1988 and excluding CS/pepper spray) are used. Simple possession, without intent or lawful authority, is excluded (For example, when a police search results in a discovery of possession of a weapon). n.b Data includes where a gun was 'threatened but not seen' from April 2008 onwards.
The Data

- The data was generated from the Police Crime Reporting Information System (CRIS) for offences between Apr 2017 and Mar 2018 and plotted using the Borough’s Ward Boundaries before May 2018 (21 Wards in total).
- CRIS data for Apr to Nov 2018.
- Hate Crime or Special Crime Dashboard (MPS public website).
Knife Crime and Serious Violence Action Plan 2018-2020

1. **Governance**

2. *Engagement, consultation, and needs assessment* - increasing understanding of violence and how to tackle the issues alongside communities

3. **Targeting lawbreakers** - enforcement and criminal justice response to knife crime

4. **Keeping deadly weapons off our streets** - addressing the accessibility and availability of knives

5. **Protecting and educating young people** - recognising the importance of prevention and working alongside schools

6. **Standing with communities, neighbourhoods and families against knife crime**

7. **Supporting the victims of knife crime** - ensuring that improving support to victims is at the heart of a holistic response

8. **Offering ways out of crime** - recognising that young people should be offered interventions which help them move away from criminality
Local Plans

- Strong partnership with actions owned by a range of partners
- Honest assessments of where improvement is required built into plans
- Focus on prevention and strong engagement with communities, parents, carers and young people
Main Findings - Youth Violence (inc. Knife Crime)

- **Around 4,000** Youth Violence offences were committed in the borough between Apr 2017 and Mar 2018 of which **20%** (791) were Serious Youth Violence Offences.

- East Walworth, Camberwell Green and The Lane were the **top three** Wards accounting for more than one in four youth violence offences.

- The peak time of offences was **after school time** particularly on Thursdays and Fridays, and during the weekend on Sundays with peak months of November and March.

- The **victims** were predominantly males between 16 and 19 years old. Three out of four of the victims were Southwark residents.

- The **suspects** were predominantly males, (81%).
Youth Violence - Offence type

- **3,959** Youth Violence (YV) Offences were committed between Apr 2017 and Mar 2018. Violence Against the Person (72% - 2,837 Offences) and Robbery (26% - 1,030) accounts for **98%** of offences committed in the Borough.

- Within the Violence Against the Person offences, Assault with injury (22% - 859 Offences), Common Assault (21% - 815), Harassment (12% - 457) and Serious Wounding (11% - 434) had the highest volumes, accounting for **65%** of the total Violence Against the Person Offences.

- Between Apr 2017 and Mar 2018, Southwark had **707** recorded Knife Crime offences. One in three of these offences (255 offences) were classified as knife crime with injury making Southwark the highest volume borough (ranked first) for this offence.
Main Findings - Where

The top three wards with the highest volumes were: East Walworth 12% (454 offences), Camberwell Green 7% (279), The Lane 7% (278).

This is 26% of the borough’s offences.
Main Findings - Hotspots

The top hotspots in **East Walworth** were:

- Munton Road
- Around Elephant and Castle shopping centre

The top hotspot in **Camberwell Green** was:

- D’eynsford Road

The top hotspot in **The Lane** was:

- Between the junctions of Highshore Road and Elm Grove with Rye Lane
Main Findings - When

The peak periods were Fri, Thu and Sun between 15:00 and 18:00 with peak months Oct, Nov and Mar.
Main Findings - Who

The victims:
64% were Males
44% from Black ethnic group
43% from White* ethnic group
44% were 16-19 years old
75% live in Southwark

*Based on the victims description

The suspects*:
81% were Males
50% from Black ethnic group
43% from White ethnic group
17% were 16-19 years old
59% live in Southwark (where known)

* Based on the victims description
Main Findings - Knife Crime

- Between Apr 2017 and Mar 2018, the Borough had 707 recorded Knife crime offences. For the 12 rolling months to Oct 2018, Southwark had the highest volume of knife crime in London (781 offences). During the same period the borough also had the highest level (ranked 1st) of knife crime with injury (255 offences) in London.

- One in three of these offences (255 offences) were classified as knife crime with injury making Southwark the highest volume borough (ranked first) for this offence.

- Robbery (51% - 362 Offences) and Violence Against the Person (38% - 269 Offs) accounted for 89% of knife crime offences.

- The top three wards with the highest volumes of knife crime offences were: East Walworth 13% (95 offences), Camberwell Green 9% (66) and The Lane 7% (46). This is 29% of the borough’s offences.

- Knife Crime - the peak periods were Tue, Fri and Sat between 15:00 and 18:00 with peak months Apr, Oct and Nov.

- 50% of victims were White males between 16 and 19 years old. Two thirds of the victims were Southwark residents.

- 55% of suspects were Black males a third of which were described as being between 16 and 19 years old.
Knife Crime - Where

The top three wards with the highest volumes of knife crime offences were:

East Walworth 13% (95 offences), Camberwell Green 9% (66) and The Lane 7% (46)

This is 29% of the borough’s offences.
Knife Crime - When

**Knife Crime** - the peak periods were Tue, Fri and Sat between 15:00 and 18:00 with peak months Apr, Oct and Nov.

**Serious Wounding** had peak periods Tue, Thu, and Sat between midnight and 02:00, 15:00 - 16:00 and 20:00 - 21:00.
Knife Crime - Who

**The victims:**
- 85% were Males
- 50% were White ethnic group
- 38% were Black ethnic group
- 52% were 16-19 years old
- 67% live in Southwark

**The suspects**:
- 90% were Males
- 55% from Black ethnic group
- 25% from White ethnic group
- 33% were 16-19 years old
- 50% live in Southwark

* Based on the victims description
Knife Crime - Hotspots

The top hotspots in **East Walworth** were:

- Munton Road
- Around Elephant and Castle shopping centre

The top hotspots in **Camberwell Green** were:

- D’eynsford Road and
- Butterfly Walk (between Wren Road and Orpheus Street)

The top hotspot in **The Lane** was:

- Between the junctions of Highshore Road and Elm Grove with Rye Lane
Youth Violence and Knife Crime Apr - Nov 2018

Between April and November 2018

• A total of 494 Youth Violence offences were committed, 41% of which (202 offences) were common assaults and 37% (185) Actual Bodily Harm - ABH.

• Within the 494 Youth Violence Offences 247 were for Serious Youth Violence. 60% of which (149 offences) were ABH and 24% (59 offences) Grievous Bodily Harm – GBH.

• 164 Knife Crime offences (excl. Domestic Abuse) were recorded in the borough. 51% (85 offences) were Robbery and 40% (66 offences) Violence Against the Person. Both accounts for over 90% of the offences.

• For the 12 rolling months to Oct 2018, Southwark had a 15% reduction in the number of knife crime offences compared to the previous 12 months (down from 924 to 781) this is compared to a 4.1% increase during the same period for London. Such reduction has been consistent during the last 3 months (-4.1%) however, Southwark remains one of the highest volume boroughs for knife crime, currently ranked fourth highest.
Youth Violence Apr - Nov 2018

The Top Wards with Youth violence so far are:

- The Lane (55 offences)
- Faraday (30 offences)
- East Walworth (28 offences)

Note that Cathedrals, Chaucer, Riverside, South Camberwell, Peckham have similar levels (around 26 offences each)
Overview of Delivery

Community Safety & Partnerships: Strategic and Co-ordinating role with operational delivery spread across the council and partnership

Immediate response
• Operation Sceptre
• Joint Enforcement
• Operation HAMROW
• SERVE/London Gang Exit Programme
• Serious Incident Strategy Group
• Southwark Young Advisors

Fast paced targeted inventions
• Risk Management Panel led by Youth Offending Service
• Youth Integrated Offender Management
• Southwark Anti-Violence Unit
• Gang Injunctions/Criminal Behaviour Orders
Overview of Delivery

Longer term prevention

- Knife Crime Workshops
- Safer Schools Police provision
- Council and VCS Youth Provision
- Positive Futures Youth Fund
- Young Independent Advisory Group
- Community Engagement and co-delivery

-Parents & Carers, Young People, Schools, Communities
Recent Development

• Breaking Barriers Southwark Programme
• Development of the London Violence Reduction Unit
• Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Serious Youth Violence and Public Health Prevention Approach
• Peer Locality Review on how the Partnership deals with Criminal Exploitation, (including county lines, youth violence and vulnerability) and this is timely considering the recent publication of a report by the Children’s Commissioner on
Violence and Health Inequalities

- Violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing in local communities.

- Significant health inequalities are experienced by people who are at risk of causing violence, at risk of experiencing violence, and victims of violence. Exposure to violence as a child has particularly negative impacts, not only increasing the risks of involvement in future violence but of substance abuse, poor mental health and chronic illness in later life.

- Violence impacts on the wider wellbeing of local communities. Yet violence is preventable through appropriate targeted interventions, especially in childhood. There are specific violence-related indicators included in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Examples are levels of violence including sexual violence from police and hospital admissions data, domestic abuse and an offending and reoffending indicator.

- Enforcement and fast paced interventions that address those at risk are vital but tackling violence effectively cannot be done through these alone. It requires fully coordinated working across local agencies, including health organisations including on prevention.

- Governance on violence and youth violence is though the statutory Community Safety Partnership that, in Southwark, sits with the Safeguarding Boards. The Health & Wellbeing Board, bringing parts of the health and care system together, has an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of those affected by violence, working with the CSP and other partners.
Key Issues

• It is critical to understand that wider criminal exploitation of vulnerable young (and sometimes older) people is central to gangs, county-lines, violence and other interlinked forms of exploitation and abuse.

• Drugs and drug markets particularly supply and sale of Class A drugs is a key driver for this and tackling drug markets, dealing with demand as well as supply alongside preventing people being drawn in to this activity is where the partnership needs to move to tackle the issues.

• Southwark has a strong partnership both in the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership and this is also key to how we work together to tackle the issues.

• Governance and tactical/operational arrangements for managing casework are complex and we need to untangle and focus this on Criminal Harm and Exploitation. Prevention is the foundation to this.

• There are a range of tools - enforcement, awareness, training, work with schools, work across the health sector, use of our power as a landlord that we need to build on and develop for the future.

• Southwark has a strong record of working with and involving young people in this work. Understanding their lived experience is important examples are the Peer Navigators and Young Advisors.