

SOUTHWARK SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE PANEL REPORT

July 2019

FOREWORD: CLLR EVEYLN AKOTO CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH



London's knife epidemic has reached unprecedented levels with more than 30 deaths in the capital since the start of 2019. Some of these fatalities have been in Southwark, which has had a devastating impact for individuals, families, communities and society at large.

Southwark has been working hard over the years to find a lasting solution to the issue of youth violence. The council has long adopted an Integrated Anti-Violence Unit approach, co-working as a unified team, police, youth offending team, probation, council community safety, voluntary sector agencies, Department for Work and Pensions with further links with children's social care. The council and our partners were also the first in London to have a dedicated knife crime action plan and a strong track

record of working across the whole community safety partnership on issues such as youth violence. All of this emphasises the importance of an integrated approach to combating youth violence.

In 2017 the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee conducted a review on youth violence, in order to make recommendations to the Cabinet and relevant partners. In 2018 a Scrutiny in a Day event was held on ending knife crime. The Council has put tackling serious youth violence, including knife crime, at the top of its list of priorities and wants to see urgent action to protect our children and young people. If we are going to succeed we need a whole community response to the issue.

Southwark Youth Violence panel continues the vital work of creating an important forum for ideas and voices to be heard. What this panel exemplifies is the role we all have in making young people and communities feel safer, removing knives from the streets and supporting positive choices. We all know that youth crime is a complex issue and there is no quick fix or one size fits all response. This panel has heard from a range of people on a number of topics who have all contributed to the recommendations in this report. The panel observed the significance of early intervention in the lives of young people and their families and noted with great concern, the growing levels of School exclusion in the borough and the link with those excluded becoming vulnerable when they are not supported to remain in some level of appropriate education.

In Southwark, we have all seen the damage that has been caused by knife crime particularly, and I am determined that Southwark Council will play a key part in

working toward a solution. We work closely with partners across the community, schools, police, MOPAC, the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit and others. I am also proud that alongside colleagues from different political parties we have had two eloquent and thoughtful young people as members of this panel. They have both brought personal experience which is so important for a project of this nature. It is key that their voices and the voices of other young people in the borough are heard and that they are part of the conversation along with being in the centre of solutions. I know that our young people are equally determined to work towards a safer environment; and the work of our young advisors, peer navigators and youth council is testament to this ambition.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, expertise and lived experience to this panel. We have heard honest and informative testimonies, which in many cases, have taken courage to share. I am grateful to everyone in our community who has come together to tackle this issue. And now our biggest task is to ensure that these recommendations are implemented with a sense of urgency.

PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

Early Years & Education

1. Southwark Council to undertake a more in-depth scrutiny review of school exclusions, managed moves and home schooling, along with alternative provision and its impact on young people and vulnerability.
2. Co-produce a charter on exclusions for schools, parents and young people/children to sign up to. This charter as a minimum to include:
 - A commitment for the council, police and schools, to improve the collection and sharing of data related to youth violence and other exploitative crime (child sexual exploitation, gangs, modern day slavery and school exclusions)
 - A commitment to reduce exclusions and to work with the council, parents, police and young people to support every child at risk of exclusion.
 - Work with parents, schools and young people to improve the quality of alternative provision to ensure a supportive environment where every child is supported and can thrive.
3. Provide an information/resource pack for educational settings on violence and vulnerability that includes information on referral routes, services and the support on offer. Southwark Council should appoint a strategic lead for this task and for youth more generally to be responsible for the systematic review of our current provision.
4. Review what our schools currently offer to help children transition from primary to secondary to ensure every child that needs one has the offer of a support package to help them through what can be a difficult change.
5. Southwark Council should work with their neighbouring boroughs to lobby government for a zero tolerance policy on exclusions.

Mental Health & Public Health Approach

6. The council to work in partnership to raise awareness of mental health & wellbeing with young people, including the perceived stigma attached to this and how that affects their vulnerability to violence.
7. The panel recognises the link between poor mental health and serious youth violence. We support Southwark Council and its partners on the Health and

Wellbeing Board's pledge to treat 100% of children diagnosed with mental health conditions by 2022.

8. Southwark Council should work with partners to produce a framework for action that has at its centre the public health approach to violence prevention. This work should be led by the Community Safety & Partnership Team working closely with the Public Health Team. The framework should include the following elements:
 - Co-ordination between all relevant agencies (statutory and voluntary);
 - Evidence-based enforcement and disruption activities;
 - Preventative work addressing the circumstances that lead people to offend;
 - Work with communities to deliver local solutions to local issues and good quality interventions for those who have offended;
 - Initiatives that reduce the drivers for youth violence, including addressing the demand for drugs;
 - Preventative work in schools and the wider community that safeguards and builds the resilience of communities and young people in particular.

Role Models and Parents/Carers

9. Support parents and the wider community to develop the capacity and skills to support their children to resist pressure to becoming involved in knife crime and serious violence.
10. Promote raising young people's aspirations through signposting to mentoring schemes and through the use of trusted role models for both males and females at risk of youth violence.
11. The council should consult with young people on the best way to recognise and reward young people within the borough for excellence building on the success of the Positive Futures Fund.

Criminal Justice and Police

12. Southwark Council should lobby the government on more funding for community policing.
 13. Southwark Council will actively engage with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and support our young people to take part in the development of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).
 14. Southwark Council should hold the police to account for improving relationships with young people and the community to build trust and
-

confidence. This should include increasing diversity in the police as well as being open and transparent in respect of monitoring stop and search the management of community tensions.

Youth and Community Services

15. The council should work with young people to redesign its youth provision to ensure that it is fit for purpose and helps give young people the best chance in life.
16. Southwark Council should work with the community, faith groups, the voluntary sector, parents and Tenants & Residents Associations, (TRAs) to build resilience and address the trauma of serious youth violence through an all community trauma informed approach. As part of this, Southwark Council should re-examine its victim support/ support offer for parents and carers.
17. Community led organisations and TRAs should be supported to make their resources and halls available for young people/services targeted at young people to use. TRAs should be encouraged to take into account the diversity of their residents and seek to include young people in their activities.
18. Southwark Council to use all commissioning frameworks to consider how they can contribute to addressing youth violence and to specifically rethink alternative education provision and how our resources are used to support young people, parents and carers.

SOUTHWARK SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE PANEL REMIT

The Southwark Youth Violence Panel was set up as a time limited, task focused group to investigate local concerns and the root causes of youth violence, particularly knife crime, and to explore possible solutions. The panel was chaired by the council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health and was cross party made up of 6 politicians (4 Labour and 2 Liberal Democrat councillors). Two young people from local youth initiatives and a local community representative were also invited to be panel members.

The panel held evidence gathering sessions with a range of stakeholders, community groups, voluntary sector groups, young people affected by and with experience of youth violence, criminal and education bodies, as well as other interested parties in order to develop a detailed picture of youth violence and the challenges we face in the borough. The panel heard about both professional and personal experiences via written and verbal evidence. The panel was not a decision making body, but was tasked to report back to Cabinet and make recommendations for decisions where relevant and appropriate.

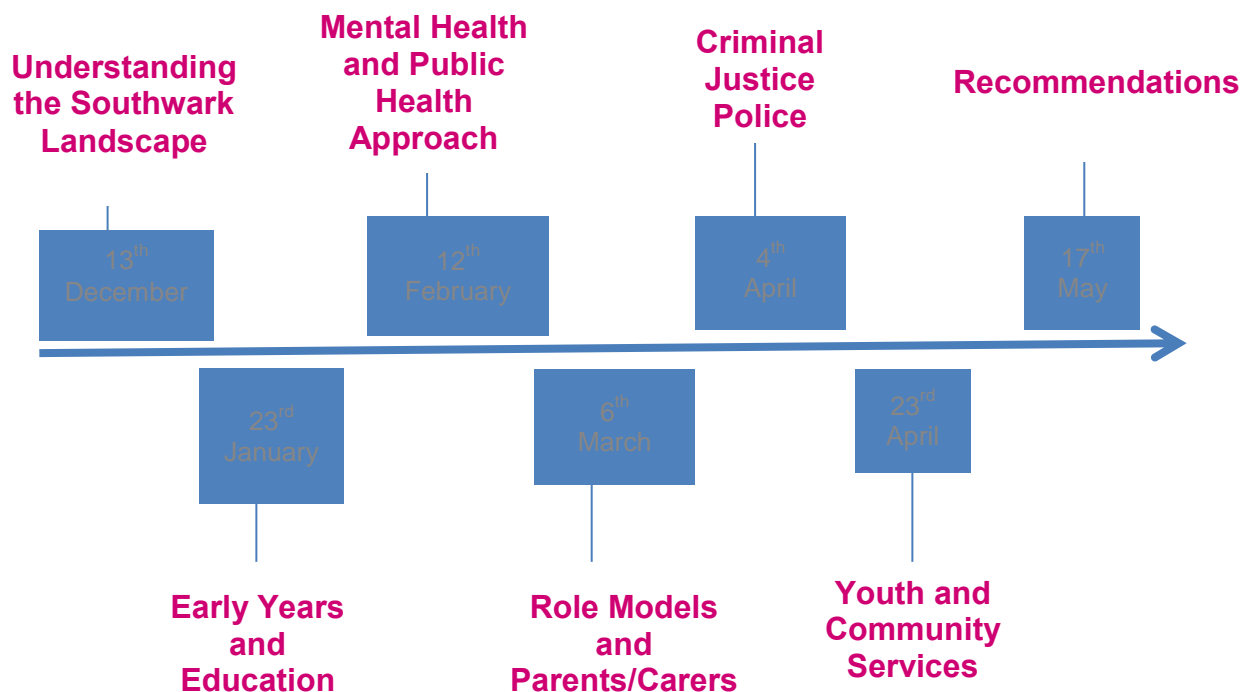
The Southwark Serious Youth Violence Panel was established with the following terms of reference:

1. To lead and co-ordinate evidence gathering from local stakeholders and responsible public sector organisations.
2. To build a picture of the current status of youth violence and knife crime in Southwark.
3. To use this evidence to inform the council's response to tackling youth violence and knife crime.

Membership of the Serious Youth Violence Panel:

- Councillor Evelyn Akoto (Chair)
- Councillor Peter Babudu
- Councillor William Hougbo
- Councillor Alice Macdonald
- Councillor David Noakes
- Councillor Jason Ochere
- Lisa Dalton, Secretary of the Manor Estate Tenant & Resident Association
- Abi Ikeola, Southwark Young Advisor
- Taylor Price, Southwark Peer Navigator

The panel sessions centred upon six thematic sessions as outlined below.



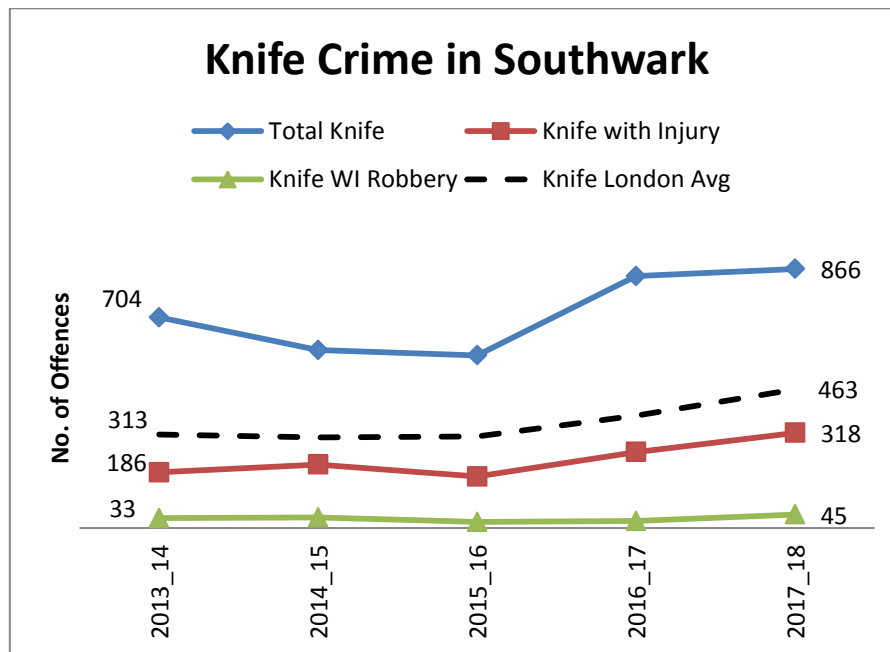
From the outset, the panel was keen to focus on identifying evidence-based, community-focused, long-term actions that could be undertaken or facilitated by the council. Through the evidence sessions, we listened to:

- young people who have themselves been affected by violence
- practitioners and youth workers
- public servants
- police officers
- experts from across the criminal justice system
- former gang members and people formerly involved in violent crime
- community leaders
- family members and many other experts/community members.

Every session was open to the public and sought to evidence from a cross section of those in Southwark impacted by serious youth violence. The recommendations focus on the key areas that emerged.

WHAT WE KNOW

Following a downward trend in knife crime from 2016/2017 London has experienced a marked increase. Not all knife crime is gang related or committed by young people, however, young people are disproportionately affected both as victims and perpetrators. For the last five years, Southwark has had a higher than the London average level of offences for knife crime as illustrated in the graph below.



Graph 1: Metropolitan Police Knife Crime Data

In the 12 months to April 2019, knife crime offences in London rose by 1.13% (168 offences). This denotes a slowing down of the rate of increase previously seen across the capital. For the 12 months ending April 2019, Southwark saw an 8% reduction in the number of knife crime offences compared to the previous 12 months, (64 offences).

Despite these efforts, the volume of knife crime is still far too high in the borough, especially knife crime with injury.

Serious youth violence is defined by the Metropolitan Police Service as any offence of most serious violence or weapon enabled crime, where the victim is aged 1-19' i.e. murder, manslaughter, rape, wounding with intent and causing grievous bodily harm. 'Youth violence' is defined in the same way, but also includes assault with injury offences.

Southwark Council is currently implementing a knife crime and serious violence action plan. This is a requirement for all local authorities and their statutory partners. This multi-agency action plan was developed using the following eight themes below and included consultation with a broad range of stakeholders.

Southwark Knife Crime & Serious Violence Action Plan 2018-2020



The Southwark Extended Learning Review on Violence & Vulnerability

As part of the delivery of the local knife crime and serious violence action plan, Southwark commissioned an External Learning Review into its work relating to Violence and Vulnerability. This took place in January 2019 and was conducted by an Independent Peer Reviews team from the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, endorsed by the Home Office. The panel heard evidence on the key findings of the review. This included a range of programmes which were deemed as exemplary practice nationally along with areas where further improvement could be made. A key recommendation was for Southwark to reposition its thinking and delivery on a range of exploitative crimes such as knife crime, gang violence and criminal exploitation into a more coherent focus of community harm and exploitation.

KEY FINDINGS

Early Years & Education

This panel calls for collective action to reduce school exclusions and ensure they are used as a last resort. This serves to increase the protective factors for our young people raising their aspirations and diverting them away from criminality.

There is a clear link between school exclusions and increased vulnerability to youth violence. Many who gave evidence identified exclusion as the beginning of a slippery slope into crime, gangs and lack of self esteem. The panel received powerful testimony from young ex-offenders on the difficulty of getting back into mainstream or alternative education, training or employment. The panel heard of significant challenges in relation to alternative provision with many children struggling to be re-introduced into mainstream education. It became acutely apparent through the sessions that there were a multitude of reasons, ranging from educational needs through to attendance and behaviour, why, once excluded, young people are often not integrated back into mainstream education.

It was also apparent that young people felt that individual success at school was driven by academic achievement and not enough focus was attached to more vocational and non academic pathways. There is a need to explore in more detail how this perception is influenced by government policy and what more can be done celebrate and raise the profile of non academic outcomes for young people.

The difficulty of partnership working across the fragmented schools landscape was also identified as a barrier to effective data collection/sharing to better help identify those young people at risk and who require more support. There was good practice identified through the use of police schools officers and programmes operating in schools and delivered by the Youth Offending Services and the Community & Voluntary Sector. It was clear that there is no common system to identify young people at risk of youth violence. Schools are clearly a key area where early intervention needs to be a priority and vulnerable children need to be supported. The transition from primary to secondary schools was also identified as being particularly difficult for some young people.

The panel heard from a head teacher from one of the borough's primary schools who strongly advocated for knife crime programmes to be delivered pre secondary school and reinforced the need for parents and carers to be supported as part of the wider school environment. The earlier children can be supported the better, which is why early years' education is key to any violence reduction strategy.

“With the right support at the right time,
we can manage risk.”

Geethika Jayatilaka, CEO, Chance UK

Recommendations

- ✓ Southwark Council to undertake a more in-depth scrutiny review of school exclusions, managed moves and home schooling, along with alternative provision and its impact on young people and vulnerability.
- ✓ Co-produce a charter on exclusions for schools, parents and young people/children to sign up to. This charter as a minimum to include:
 - A commitment for the council, police and schools, to improve the collection and sharing of data related to youth violence and other exploitative crime (child sexual exploitation, gangs, modern day slavery and school exclusions)
 - A commitment to reduce exclusions and to work with the council, parents, police and young people to support every child at risk of exclusion.
 - Work with parents, schools and young people to improve the quality of alternative provision to ensure a supportive environment where every child is supported and can thrive.
- ✓ Provide an information/resource pack for educational settings on violence and vulnerability that includes information on referral routes, services and the support on offer. Southwark Council should appoint a strategic lead for this task and for youth more generally to be responsible for the systematic review of our current provision.
- ✓ Review what our schools currently offer to help children transition from primary to secondary to ensure every child that needs one has the offer of a support package to help them through what can be a difficult change.

- ✓ Southwark Council should work with their neighbouring boroughs to lobby government for a zero tolerance policy on exclusions.

Mental Health & Public Health Approach

The panel calls for mental health to be addressed as a contributing factor to serious youth violence.

Many of those who gave evidence were former perpetrators or worked with perpetrators of serious youth violence identified with a history of undiagnosed and untreated mental health issues. They felt this was a contributing factor to the slide into serious youth violence. At the same time, the trauma of being a victim of serious youth violence had affected many within the community.

Southwark must address the increased stress and pressures on young people's mental health. Young people talked about how current provision and places could be used more effectively as drop-ins to provide more informal and discreet support. A need was identified to spot the signs of mental health earlier. Many of the young people don't understand terms like 'CAMHs,' they just know what they are feeling. Mental health services are seen as very formal and helping people too late down the road. The young people wished for more focus on wider wellbeing, peer support and relatability from staff.

Council staff noted that we are already do much from the public health approach, with prevention, upstreaming and partnership working. Experts underlined how critical ACE awareness across our prevention services is. Improving data sharing specifically with A&E and LAS would enable us to pick up and intervene earlier. Formal mental health pathways were seen as very complex and with high thresholds. A representative of the Southwark Anti-violence Unit's bespoke forensic mental health practitioner(TOGETHER) spoke about how to navigate this and take a trauma informed approach.

“There is stigma about mental health in all communities.”

Deji, Southwark Anti-Violence Unit

This panel calls for the preventative public health approach to tackle serious youth violence

The public health approach to serious youth violence was pointed to by experts who presented to the panel a best practise evidence based approach for tackling the root causes of serious youth violence. Members of the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit discussed its structure and process of formation. They spoke of being eager to work with Southwark and the council's Public Health Team gave evidence about their work.

“The public health approach is a framework: all this is preventative”

Kirsten Watters, Consultant in Public Health

Recommendations

- ✓ The council to work in partnership to raise awareness of mental health & wellbeing with young people, including the perceived stigma attached to this and how that affects their vulnerability to violence.
- ✓ The panel recognises the link between poor mental health and serious youth violence. We support Southwark Council and its partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board's pledge to treat 100% of children diagnosed with mental health conditions by 2022.
- ✓ Southwark Council should work with partners to produce a framework for action that has at its centre the public health approach to violence prevention. This work should be led by the Community Safety & Partnership Team working closely with the Public Health Team. The framework should include the following elements:
 - Co-ordination between all relevant agencies (statutory and voluntary);
 - Evidence-based enforcement and disruption activities;
 - Preventative work addressing the circumstances that lead people to offend;
 - Work with communities to deliver local solutions to local issues and good quality interventions for those who have offended;
 - Initiatives that reduce the drivers for youth violence, including addressing the demand for drugs;

- Preventative work in schools and the wider community that safeguards and builds the resilience of communities and young people in particular.

Role Models and Parents/Carers

The panel calls for better support for parents, carers and the wider community to increase capacity to support children to resist a lifestyle of violence.

Role models and parents/carers are vital for protecting children from serious youth violence. Those who gave evidence spoke of the need for better access support especially from those who have similar lived experience. To be a positive role model to young people, people need to not just be relatable but also consistent and deliver what they say they are doing.

Southwark has many inspiring young people with so many positive stories about the good things they are doing. Cleese Buck spoke powerfully of how family is important, but we must recognise that this means different things to different people. The council needs to be aware that culture has an impact on one's response to events and therefore support needs to be tailored to the individual. Young people identified peer-to-peer as a powerful tool of support, as well as involving young people in designing support for parents and carers.

Recommendations

- ✓ Support parents and the wider community to develop the capacity and skills to support their children to resist pressure to becoming involved in knife crime and serious violence.
- ✓ Promote raising young people's aspirations through signposting to mentoring schemes and through the use of trusted role models for both males and females at risk of youth violence.
- ✓ The council should consult with young people on the best way to recognise and reward young people within the borough for excellence building on the success of the Positive Futures Fund.

Police and Criminal Justice

This panel calls on the police to be open and transparent with the Southwark community.

There is a significant lack of trust between the police and many young people in Southwark. Community members and police alike gave evidence that this could be improved through more community level policing and relationship building. In

particular, stop and search was raised as a cause of friction with many perceiving it as unfairly targeting young BAME people. Another issue identified was a lack of diversity within the police and of understanding the communities they have dealings with.

The police and community members spoke of the value of community policing and having a strong partnership between schools, Southwark council and police. Police budget cuts were identified as a contributing factor to serious youth violence. Serious youth violence is a London-wide issue requiring solutions to be found in partnership with MOPAC and the Greater London Authority.

“A lot of my friends distrust and fear the police. People don’t know about stop and search; they feel they are being targeted and racially profiled.”

Joy, SGTO Youth Forum

Recommendations

- ✓ Southwark Council should lobby the government on more funding for community policing.
- ✓ Southwark Council will actively engage with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and support our young people to take part in the development of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).
- ✓ Southwark Council should hold the police to account for improving relationships with young people and the community to build trust and confidence. This should include increasing diversity in the police as well as being open and transparent in respect of monitoring stop and search the management of community tensions.

Youth and Community Services

This panel calls for young people and the community to be at the heart of tackling serious youth violence.

The panel was inspired and impressed by the young people who gave evidence about their personal experiences of serious violence. Young people's voices must be heard in any violence reduction strategy and within the commissioning of all youth services in Southwark. The panel discussed the challenge of joining up activities across the borough and raising awareness of what is available. For this reason the panel agreed that there needs to be a refresh of the directory of youth provision. Serious youth violence is also linked to child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Community groups identified short term funding as a challenge to sustainability across the sectors as well as access to buildings which the council charges for. They requested that TRA halls become more accessible and their resources more open to local people.

“We need to show young people their options”

Jay (Jamal) Jones, YouthInk

This panel calls on the community to work with Southwark Council to support young people and help them thrive.

Southwark has a strong community spirit with untapped potential to support early intervention and address youth violence. The council Positive Future's Fund will support community organisations to provide inspiring opportunities for young people that divert them away from crime. There are a range of TRA and community resources that are underused and where young people's needs are underrepresented. The panel clearly heard that every death vibrates through our communities with many feeling the impact of the trauma caused and with many having the desire to support the community around them to prevent these deaths.

“I want to talk to someone living the same life as me and who won’t judge me”

Sharon Carty, Parent

Recommendations

- ✓ The council should work with young people to redesign its youth provision to ensure that it is fit for purpose and helps give young people the best chance in life.
- ✓ Southwark Council should work with the community, faith groups, the voluntary sector, parents and Tenants & Residents Associations, (TRAs) to build resilience and address the trauma of serious youth violence through an all community trauma informed approach. As part of this, Southwark Council should re-examine its victim support/ support offer for parents and carers.
- ✓ Community led organisations and TRAs should be supported to make their resources and halls available for young people/services targeted at young people to use. TRAs should be encouraged to take into account the diversity of their residents and seek to include young people in their activities.
- ✓ Southwark Council to use all commissioning frameworks to consider how they can contribute to addressing youth violence and to specifically rethink alternative education provision and how our resources are used to support young people, parents and carers.

Appendix

EVIDENCE SESSIONS: SUMMARIES AND KEY ISSUES

The Southwark Serious Youth Violence Panel held six meetings between December 2018 and April 2019 to gather evidence from a range of stakeholders in the borough to understand the impact of Serious Youth Violence on residents, businesses, public services, community groups and others. A list of the evidence sessions is detailed below.

Session one: Understanding the Southwark Landscape

13th December 2018

The panel took evidence from the following individuals:

- Alasdair Smith, Director of Children & Families
- Simon Messinger, Detective Chief Superintendent - Southwark Police Borough Commander.
- Helen Lyons, Detective Superintendent, Southwark Police
- Kirsten Watters, Public Health
- Nina Dohel, Director of Education
- Lisa Dalton, Community Representative
- Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities

The first session gave the panel an overview of Southwark's current serious youth violence challenges and services, including speeches from the two young people who then joined the panel, Taylor Price and Abi Ikeola.

Kirsten Watters from Southwark Council's Public Health Department explained the Public Health Approach as a preventative trauma focused approach. Stephen Douglass (Director of Communities, Southwark Council) explained the Safeguarding Partnership's current knife crime and serious violence actions and the council's leadership role, and also referred to the link between serious violence and drugs and gangs in the borough. Alasdair Smith (Children's & Families, Southwark Council) set the scene with a case study of a 16 year old boy who lost his life to knife along with the recommendations which were implemented based on the learning of this case across the partnership.

Simon Messinger and Helen Lyons (Police) explained the role of the police as a partner of the council in preventing serious violence. Nina Dohel (Education Southwark Council) explained the complex educational picture in Southwark while Lisa Dalton (Secretary of Manor Estate TRA) gave a community perspective about the youth groups her organisation runs and how young people need to be supported by their communities

Session two: Early Years and Education

23rd January 2019

The panel took evidence from the following individuals:

- Geethika Jayatilaka, CEO, Chance UK
- Nina Dohel, Director of Education
- Jenny Brennan, Assistant Director of Family Early Help & Youth Justice
- Nicola Noble, Head Teacher. Surrey Square Primary School
- PC Marcus Kudliskis, Safer Schools Officer
- T Morgan, young person
- C Buck, young person
- T Ajose, young person

Nina Dohel (Education, Southwark Council) explained fragmentation of the current school landscape means that councils are responsible for some aspects of the school system but don't have control over all education matters or institutions.

Geethika Jayatilaka, (Chance UK) spoke about the need to deal with trauma and how exclusion is the beginning of a slippery slope. She emphasised how effective mentoring and support within schools can be. Jenny Brennan (Children's Services, Southwark Council) presented on the role of children's services to prevent serious youth violence by addressing childhood trauma.

Nicola Noble (Headteacher at Surrey Square Primary School) discussed the need for knife crime awareness in primary schools. PC Kudliskis explained the role of school officers in building trust between the police and young people. Tajo Morgan spoke about his experience at school with learning difficulties. The panel discussed the impact of exclusions and flaws in the SILS system.

Key issues:

- The fragmented schools landscape
- The need for increased awareness and support within schools
- The clear link between school exclusions and vulnerability to youth violence as well as problems in alternative provision.

Session three: Mental Health and a Public Health Approach

12th February 2019

The panel took evidence from the following individuals:

- Councillor Jasmine Ali, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Adult Care
- A Jeffs, young person

- M Chowdhry, Youth Ink
- R Miah, Peer Navigator
- J Jones, Peer Navigator
- J Sahrkah, Peer Navigator
- Deji and Fabio, Southwark Anti-Violence Unit
- Kirsten Watters, Consultant in Public Health
- Rushi Singh, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Mobilisation Lead for the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit

Mifta Choudhury introduced YouthInk and the young people shared their experiences of offending with a knife and accessing mental health services and the stresses they experience. Mifta urged more activities for young people to divert them from gangs.

Cllr Jasmine Ali and Genette Laws (Commissioning, Southwark Council) presented on the CAMHs review and Southwark's progress towards the 100% target for children with mental ill health. Deji and Fabio (Together for Mental Wellbeing) spoke on the work of SAVU and how they provide support for individuals aged 16 to 25 at risk from gang related activity or serious violence. They discussed the interventions they offer in areas including education and training, substance misuse, finance and health.

Kirsten Watters (Public Health, Southwark Council) explained the public health approach and issues regarding its application in Southwark. She explained that Southwark is exploring how to apply the learning from the Glasgow model here. A statement was read from MOPAC on its progress in setting up the Violence Reduction Unit

Key Issues

- The increasing stress and pressures young people are under.
- The commitment of Southwark Council to achieve the 100% target for treating children with mental ill health.
- The importance of activities for young people to support positive mental wellbeing.

Session four: Role Models and Parents/Carers

6th March 2019

The panel took evidence from the following individuals:

- Grace Idowu, parent
- Sharon Carty, parent
- C Bucks, young person
- J Fraser, young person

- Andrew Hillas, Head of Southwark Youth Offending Service
- Amanda Singh, Youth Offending Service Parents Groups
- Sayce Holmes- Lewis – Mentivity (Mentoring Youth Through Positive Activities, Sports and Education)

Grace Idowu and Sharon Carly shared their experiences of losing a child/having a child involved in knife crime and the support they received. They spoke of their trauma in the aftermath and how they have been community advocates on serious violence since. They shared their thoughts about how support for parents in their situation could be improved.

The panel discussed a need for increased community awareness and support. Cleese Buck and J Fraser shared their lived experience of knife crime and their lack of trust in police. Sayce Holmes explained Mentivity and their alternative education model emphasising the importance of positive role models.

Key issues

- The importance and value of role models
- The need for increased community awareness and support
- The lack of trust in police/authorities in some sections of the community
- The desire for more universal youth activities

Session five: Criminal Justice and Police

4th April 2019

The panel took evidence from the following individuals:

- Kapree, Joy and Hope, SGTO Youth Forum
- Julian Wright, SAVU
- Helen Lyons Detective Superintendent, Southwark Police
- Steve Bending (MOPAC)
- Don McKerrow JP, Chair of the South London (London Justice Area) Youth panel
- Toks Adesuyan, Senior District Crown Prosecutor, Advocacy & Youth Lead

Steve Bending (MOPAC) answered questions on the new Violence Reduction Unit and its proposed structure. Joy and Kapree (SGTO Youth Forum) discussed their own experiences with the police and that of the young people they work with. They talked about mistrust and negative stop and search experiences. Superintendent Helen Lyons discussed how the police are trying to work with communities and the issues around the Stop and Search policy.

Don McKerrow (Magistrate) and Toks Adesuyan (Crown Prosecutor) gave evidence on the youth justice system and how youth conditional disposals work as well as how sentencing should be used to support young people down a better path.

Key issues

- The relationship between the police and the community
- The work MOPAC is currently doing on violence reduction
- The sentencing of youth offenders

Session six: Youth and community services

23rd April 2019

- Lawrence Laryea, Active Communities
- Oli Rahman, Active Communities
- Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture, Environment & Leisure Department
- Tina Thorley, Youth Operations and Commissioning Manager
- Chloe Newman, Southwark Young Advisers
- Paul Rymer, CEO, Community Southwark
- Anthony Aina, Penifcent

Chloe Newman explained the role of young advisors and three young advisors present shared their stories and talked about their work. Oli Rahman, Active Communities talked about his organisation's struggles to find space and asked that TRAs opened up more.

Aileen Cahill, (Head of Culture, Environment & Leisure Southwark Council) explained the Youth services in Southwark. Cara Jones, (Southwark Information Advice and Support Manager) explained how her team works with vulnerable groups (disabilities, care leavers and youth offenders) reaching 9000 families. Paul Rymer, (CEO, Community Southwark) discussed supporting small organisations through the commissioning process and asked Southwark Council to improve their communications with the community.

The panel discussed the potential of the upcoming Positive Futures Fund to support young people's involvement in the local community.

Key issues

- The need for young people to be involved in youth services
- The trouble the community have with understanding how services are commissioned
- The potential of the Positive Futures Fund