



Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

London Borough of Sutton Draft Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-26

Title & Version	London Borough of Sutton Serious Violence Duty 2024-26
Relevant To	Safer Sutton Partnership Board, Sutton Council People Committee
Summary/Purpose	To outline Sutton's Serious Violence duty, strategic plan, governance and priorities for 2024-26
Authorised By	Senior Leadership Group
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Foreword

The Safer Sutton Partnership is committed to preventing and reducing serious violence to keep local residents in the London Borough of Sutton safe. We will embed the statutory serious violence duty under this Serious Violence Strategy 2024-26, through a delivery plan that has been endorsed by the Sutton Safer Partnership that has representation from the responsible authorities (also known as 'duty holders'). The strategy is fully supported by the Adult and Children Local Safeguarding Partnerships.

The "Ambitious for Sutton" Corporate Plan 2022-27 sets out the vision of Sutton being a place where people from all backgrounds feel included and get on well together, with support for our young people, families, older people, and vulnerable residents. The strategy to reduce serious violence will form part of the aim to make Sutton a safe and inclusive place for everyone who lives, works, or attends schools and colleges in the Borough. We know how deeply impactful serious violence can be on communities and individuals. We are committed to reducing the frequency of serious violence or antisocial behaviour, and to supporting Sutton's families and communities to feel safe and heard.

While effectively challenging any violent crime in Sutton, we will ensure no particular community, either directly or indirectly, is unduly prejudiced through the process. We firmly believe that Sutton should be an inclusive, safe place for everyone, where people of all backgrounds feel included and heard in Sutton's decisions. This is why this strategy's key priorities centre on safety in our communities.

These three strategic priorities represent our commitment to a new way of thinking and responding to serious violence and antisocial behaviour, establishing a new balance between prevention and law enforcement. As a partnership, we need to consider serious violence with a whole-system approach to understand its causes, prevent and divert people from serious violence, and protect residents wherever needed.

Our first priority theme, "Prevention and Early Intervention", aims to identify emerging and ongoing antisocial behaviour and intervene before escalation to more serious violence or other crimes. Sutton are well equipped to prevent serious crime at an early stage through the Local Child Safeguarding Partnership's Helping Early Strategy. Our recent Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the "front door of services" recognised that Sutton has strong and effective inclusive Partnership arrangements in place to respond to serious crime, and support those who have been victims of crimes.

Our second priority theme, "Supporting Communities and Partnerships", takes this

collaboration further. We are speaking to diverse groups of young people in our borough to understand what their thoughts are about serious violence and the area they live in. It is well recognised that engagement in full-time, good quality education is a strong protective factor against young people being drawn into serious violence, and we understand that social stigma and access to services can prolong this cycle. This priority will ensure that we are safe on our streets and neighbourhoods, and vulnerable groups are safe from harm and exploitation.

Our third priority theme, “Disrupt, divert, protect and enforce”, revolves around keeping residents safe from crime and its consequences. Sutton is one of the safest London boroughs, and we will continue to work closely with our proactive police and place-based community groups to divert potential criminals from antisocial behaviour. This theme pledges to ensure Sutton remains a difficult place for people to behave antisocially or commit serious violent crime. Where serious violent crime does take place, we want to provide timely and appropriate support to victims. Serious offenders will be identified and monitored to ensure that Sutton residents and families are kept safe from harm.

Together we will show the best of our borough to make Sutton an even safer, fairer, and more inclusive place. It is this community spirit, collaboration and innovation with partners and community groups that will protect us from serious violent crime and its consequences. We are stronger together.

Councillor Ruth Dombey, OBE
Leader of Sutton Council

1. Introduction

Sutton's Serious Violence Strategy has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty that were introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.¹ The overall purpose of the strategy is to ensure compliance with the fundamental principles of the new statutory duty in order to reduce serious violence in Sutton.

This strategy is underpinned by a needs assessment that informs how we interpret our statutory duty to prevent and respond to incidents of serious violence in Sutton over the next two years. Collectively, the community safety partnership is committed to delivering a range of interventions to prevent, disrupt and divert criminal acts linked to potential serious violence. Protecting members of the public through enforcement of the act where necessary and supporting victims of crime is central to this strategy.

2. The Sutton vision and how we will achieve stronger communities

The Ambitious for Sutton Corporate Plan 2022-27 captures the vision to achieve an inclusive place for everyone through supportive communities. Sutton Local Child Safeguarding Partnership's Helping Early Strategy was first rolled out in 2019, and refreshed in 2022. It sets out the vision to take a joined up approach to supporting families who need help at the most appropriate, earliest, and helpful point. It is therefore well recognised that we must do more to find long term solutions to serious violence, rather than solely rely on law enforcement. This is why creating supportive communities is the right ambition for Sutton; examples from our corporate plan of how we will achieve this are:

- Work with our partners, including youth services to support schools, parents and children and young people, to improve their mental health and wellbeing
- Deliver a new Family Hub Model alongside partners to support families to access a range of universal support services more easily
- Ensure enough school places for Sutton residents, including high-quality places for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Work with partners to integrate support for Children and Young People across health and social care
- Improve youth provision in the Borough
- Work with partners to deliver a programme to transform mental health support across South West London

¹ [Serious Violence Duty Preventing and reducing serious violence Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities 2022](#)

- Champion equality, diversity and inclusion across Sutton through strong partnerships
- Develop and deliver a violence against women and girls strategy which brings together work with partners across the borough, including; White Ribbon Accreditation work, community safety initiatives, and the Womens Night Time Safety Charter
- Work with the voluntary and community sector to support refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, including taking part in the London Councils "fair shares" plan
- Work with partners to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it, including delivering hate crime awareness events

Taking account of the Strategic Needs Assessment, and the work already undertaken by Sutton's Community Safety Partnership in response to serious violence, the following three priority themes will frame the strategy:

PRIORITY THEMES		AREAS OF FOCUS
1	Prevention and Early Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe in our Partnership and Community - Safe from Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Sexual Violence
2	Supporting Communities and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe on our Streets and Neighbourhoods - Safe from Harm and Exploitation
3	Disrupt, Divert, Protect and Enforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe from Crime and its Consequences

This strategy reflects a step change in the way we think and respond to serious violence, helping to establish a new balance between prevention and law enforcement. These themes adhere to our "Ambitious for Sutton" Corporate Plan 2022-27, in which we pledged to continue promoting equality and inclusion, and making Sutton a great place for our diverse communities.

3. Definition

3.1 What is serious violence?

The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 provides that, for the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism.

The Government Serious Violence Strategy (2018) sets out specific types of crime of concern, including homicide, violence against the person (which may include both knife crime and gun crime), and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.² These crimes should be at the core of the serious violence duty for the purpose of its reduction and prevention

3.2 What is serious violence for the purpose of this statutory duty?

We have agreed to adopt this definition of serious violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty.

“Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.”³

3.3 What is the definition of domestic abuse?

We have agreed to adopt the Domestic abuse definition in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

3.4. What is the definition of Violence Against Women and Girls?

“Violence against women and girls (VAWG) covers a range of unacceptable and deeply distressing crimes, including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, ‘honour’-based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage and ‘honour’ killings), ‘revenge porn’ and ‘upskirting’, as well as many others. These crimes disproportionately affect women and girls.”⁴

4. Legal and policy context

² [Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018](#)

³ [Serious Violence Duty Preventing and reducing serious violence Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities, Appendix 3, December 2022](#)

⁴ [National Statement of Expectations for commissioning Violence Against Women and Girls services, March 2022](#)

In April 2018 the Government published its National Serious Violence Strategy in response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide in almost all police forces across England. The strategy represented a change in how partners should think and respond to serious violence, establishing a new balance between prevention and law enforcement. It declares a call to action for partners from across different sectors to come together and adopt an end-to-end, whole-system multi-agency approach to preventing and responding to serious violence at a local level.

In 2019, as part of the National Serious Violence Strategy, funding was identified to set up 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across the country. The primary focus of VRUs is to ensure collaboration between the police, local authority community safety, education, health professionals, community leaders, and the voluntary and community sector to understand the root cause of serious violence at a local level taking a public health approach. Sutton's Serious Violence Strategy takes account of guidance issued by the government, as well as London guidance developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit in collaboration with London Councils, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police, NHS London and Probation Service and is designed to complement the Sutton Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan.

The responsible authorities (also known as 'duty holders') in the Serious Violence Duty will be:

- The police
- Fire and rescue authorities
- Justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- Health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- Local Authorities

Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions will be under a separate duty to co-operate with duty holders, but they are not duty holders.

In 2021 the Government released guidance in relation to the implementation of a Serious Violence Duty. The duty brings with it several commitments and responsibilities for both Central and Local Government, as well as named partners, including the police, justice (Youth Justice and Probation), health, education and fire and rescue.

The new Duty requires the specified authorities to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. In doing so, local areas are encouraged to work within the framework of a public health approach:

- Focused on a defined population

- With and for communities
- Not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries
- Focused on generating long-term as well as short-term solutions
- Based on data and intelligence to identify the burden on the population, including any inequalities
- Rooted in evidence of effectiveness to tackle the problem.

5. Local Partnership Arrangements

In the London Borough of Sutton, the Community Safety Partnership is known as the Safer Sutton Partnership Board (SSPB). This will be the lead partnership for implementation of the Serious Violence Duty, and for ensuring compliance with the duty. SSPB meets quarterly and is chaired by the leader of the council, Councillor Ruth Dombey. Further details, including the membership, are available in the SSPB constitution.⁵

This Strategy document will be reviewed annually by the SSPB to ensure that it reflects emerging policy and practice developments.

Assurance about the implementation of the strategy will be provided to the strategic Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) Strategic Subgroup that meets quarterly, and comes under the governance of Sutton Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). The subgroup is chaired by a senior Police representative, who will report into both the SSPB and LSCP Boards. The progress of the action plan's implementation will be reported into the annual review of the effectiveness of the Local Arrangements under Working Together 2023.⁶

6. Summary of the Strategic Needs Assessment of Violence

Sutton's Community Safety Partnership recognises that in order to effectively embed a public health approach to serious violence we need to ensure that we have a robust understanding of the presenting issues and driving factors at a local level. It is essential that we understand the picture of serious violence in Sutton in order to ensure that we can respond to trends and drivers efficiently and effectively. The strategic needs assessment is intended to enable partners to identify current and long-term issues relating to serious violence and those most vulnerable to involvement in the local area. This provides a greater understanding of established and emerging serious violence trends, priority locations or other high-risk issues. The strategic needs assessment has been developed following an evidence-based

⁵ [SSPB Constitution, June 2023](#)

⁶ [Working Together to Safeguard Children, December 2023](#)

analysis of data from Metropolitan Police Service, Domestic Abuse Partnership and Youth Justice Board relating to violence, as well as broader datasets from Sutton Children's Services and Public Health including those in relation to deprivation and health.

In assessing each of the critical areas, the analysis has looked at locations that have a higher risk of violence and temporal factors, such as the times of greater and lesser offending, including the times of day, days of the week and seasonal trends through the year. The analysis has also looked at the profile of victims and offenders of violence, in order to understand the risks and opportunities for prevention.

Outlined below is what we know about serious violence in Sutton so far and has looked at the critical areas of violence and vulnerability within the definition of serious violence, including violence affecting those under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The following utilised the calendar year 2023 for detailed analysis and the longer-term trends covering the previous two years. For future needs assessments further data would be beneficial in understanding what types of venues offences are occurring, what type of property is being targeted/stolen and whether victims/suspects are local.

3.1. Violence and Exploitation Affecting Young People Under the Age of 25 (counting all the VRU defined offences with at least one victim or suspect aged under 25 years)

Overview - Sutton

There were 1,094 VRU defined violence offences involving under 25-year-olds in Sutton in 2023. This was a rise of 9% from 2022 and 24% from 2021. This increase is greater than was seen across all Violence Against a Person, which increased 5% against 2022, and 2% against 2021.

Victims	Suspects
The victim gender split is in line with Sutton's population with 51% female and 49% male.	75% of suspects were male.
The most common age band for victims was 10-24 (70%).	68% of suspects were older young people aged between 10 and 24 years.

The most common victim ethnicity was white, however, black victims were disproportionately higher than the population make-up of Sutton, with 14% of victims recorded as black compared to 6% of Sutton's population.	Similarly, while white was the most common suspect ethnicity, the proportion of black suspects was greater than the local population (23%).*
34% of offences involved at least one victim and one suspect who were both under 25.	The majority (67%) of offences occurred away from the victim's residence, and in over half the offences the suspect were known to the victim.

*As the data doesn't identify repeat suspects, it may be that this figure has been increased by persistent/prolific offenders.

Injury Seriousness

Seriousness of injury in these offences has been consistently low with 88% (2023) and 90% (2022 & 2021) defined as either no injury, threats only or minor.

In over 50% of offences, the suspect was known to the victim.

Although there were 2 murders in the borough in 2023, the use of weapons within all offences is relatively low. 12% of offences included one or more relevant weapons.

Borough Wards

Sutton Central, St Helier West and South Beddington & Roundshaw have been consistently in the top wards for these offences over the last 3 years.

These 3 wards have been previously identified as higher contributing wards for violence offences and the current serious violence capacity building projects has particular focus on areas in these wards. When comparing violence offences with Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence there are 5 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which appear in the top areas for 2 or 3 of the crime types. These frequently occurring locations are in line with previous research that identified the areas of focus for the serious violence capacity building project.

Days of the Week

Peak days for serious violence are Fridays and Saturdays, accounting for 16% each. Peak time is between 1500 and 17:59 with 25% of offences within this band and a greater number of offences appearing to align with the end of the school day. Most

offences within that time band on weekdays are either Actual Bodily harm and other Injury or Robbery of personal property, accounting for 71% of offences.

Trends

Across 2022 and 2023 the monthly trend of these offences was generally a similar pattern until August. After this in 2023 there is a greater number of reported offences for the remainder of the year. Around a third of this increase is due to Personal Robbery offences occurring in Sutton Central and South Beddington & Roundshaw. A recent London-wide trend for robbery of high value clothing has been identified. However, the crime data doesn't contain stolen property data so links to this cannot be confirmed.

3.2. Domestic Abuse (counting all Total Notifiable Offences with a Domestic Abuse Flag)

Overview - Sutton

There were 1,944 offences of Domestic Abuse in Sutton in 2023. Although this is a 3.3% rise from the previous year, it is a decrease from 2021 of 4%. Sutton is ranked 24th lowest in the London boroughs with 9.6 offences per 1,000 population. The rank and rate have remained similar over the previous 2 years indicating changes are in line with London.

Victims	Suspects
Over three quarters of victims of Domestic Abuse are female (76%), considerably higher than the population of Sutton.	Similarly, suspects are predominantly male (78%), though the gender gap reduces in the 75+ age bands.
Over half of all victims are aged between 18-39 years.	The majority of suspects also fall within the 18-39 age band.
The majority of victims are white. However, the proportion of black victims (10%) is slightly higher than the proportion of Sutton's population.	The breakdown of ethnicity for suspects is similar to victims.

Conversely, the proportion of Asian victims is lower than the proportion of Sutton's population. Further work within these communities may assist in understanding if this is representative or if there is greater under-reporting in these communities.

Injury Seriousness

The degree of injury of victims was low with 90% recorded as minor or no injury.

Borough Wards

Top wards are Sutton Central, St Helier West and St Helier East. Over a quarter of offences (27%) occur in one of these 3 wards. This was consistent with the previous 2 years with similar higher contributing wards.

Days of the Week

Saturdays (15.6%) and Sundays (15.5%) are peak days with a notable number of offences in the early morning (00:00-02:59) of these days. This may indicate a link with returning home after a night out.

Victims	Suspects
Most offences occurred in the victim's home with 65% off offence locations matching the victim's address.	95% of suspects were known to the victim.
Ex-boyfriends account for over a quarter of all suspects (28%).	The other most common relationships are current boyfriend (11%) and son or father of the victim (11% and 10% respectively).
These relationships account for over 60% of all offences.	

3.3. Sexual Violence (counting all offences with the Crime Section Sexual Offences)

Overview - Sutton

There were 461 offences of Sexual Offences in Sutton in 2023. This was a rise of 15% compared to 2022 and 18% compared to 2021. Sutton is ranked 22nd in the London boroughs with a rate of 2.2 offences per 1,000 population. Although the rate of offences has only changed from 1.9 in 2022 the borough was ranked 31st that year. In the lower contributing boroughs, the rate of offences is very similar (a

difference of 0.15 between the boroughs ranked 22nd and 28th) so this can fluctuate greatly. However, Sutton was one of 8 boroughs to have an increase in offences between 2022 and 2023.

Victims	Suspects
84% of victims are female with a similar gender gap across the age ranges.	Suspects were most commonly male, accounting for 93% of all suspects.
* This is significantly different from the gender breakdown of the local population with disproportionately high female victims and male suspects.	
The majority of victims are aged between 10-17 (42%).	A quarter of suspects were aged between 15-24 years.
Like Domestic Abuse, the proportion of black victims (10%) is slightly higher than the proportion of Sutton's population.	The breakdown of ethnicity for the suspect is similar to the victim.
The proportion of Asian victims is lower than the proportion of the local population.	Ex-boyfriend or acquaintance of the victims both made up 16% of suspects, and friends of the victim made up 9% of victims.
The majority (67%) of offences occurred away from the victim's home.	The suspect was known to the victim in 66% offences.

Borough Wards

The top wards are Sutton Central, The Wrythe and Wallington South. Two of these wards were within the top wards throughout the reporting period. However, The Wrythe has seen a considerable increase in 2023, particularly around 2 LSOAs. In most cases the victim knew the suspect and it was a variety of different relationships. From the data available it isn't possible to identify any links between these offences, nor does the data identify if there are repeat victims.

Days of the Week

Peak days are Wednesday (19%) and Saturday (18%). Peak times for offences are between 00:00 and 02:59 with nearly a quarter of reporting during this time band. Like Domestic Abuse there is a higher proportion of offences around this time on a Saturday. Therefore, potentially indicating a connection with either people returning home after a night out or offences committed while people are out on a Friday night. The data available doesn't contain types of venues where offences occurred so it's not possible to confirm if there is a link. 20% of Sexual Offences also have a Domestic Abuse flag.

7. Priority Themes - Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

Taking account of the Strategic Needs Assessment, and the work already undertaken by Sutton's Community Safety Partnership in response to serious violence, it has been agreed to frame the strategy on the following three priority themes:

PRIORITY THEMES	
1	Prevention and Early Intervention
2	Supporting Communities and Partnerships
3	Disrupt, Divert, Protect and Enforce

This strategy, and the implementation of the above priorities builds on the work already undertaken to respond to serious violence, through the Sutton LSCP Helping Early Strategy⁷ and targeted early help and prevention approaches⁸, by emphasising the balance between prevention and law enforcement.

3.4. Theme 1: Prevention and early intervention

Problem solving meetings are well established multi-agency panels chaired by Safer Sutton Community Safety. The panels identify emerging and ongoing place based antisocial behaviour and seek to intervene before escalation to more serious violence or other crimes. We must prevent people from committing serious violence and being drawn into exploitation by building resilience, supporting positive alternatives, and providing timely interventions at the "teachable moment". This signals our intention to deliver a step change in early intervention and prevention and outlines proposals for action which support interventions to help young people and

⁷ Sutton Helping Early Strategy

⁸ Sutton Early Help approaches

young adults to live positive lives away from violence. Further details about the function of the problem solving meeting are available in the Terms of Reference⁹.

3.4.1. Safe in our Partnership and Community

Sutton is one of the safest boroughs in London, with a proactive multi-agency partnership in place with which to target and tackle crime and its consequences at a local level. We will continue to target and deal with harm and impact from our day and night time economies, recognising that while Sutton's economy provides tremendous benefits and prosperity to the borough, it can be a source of nuisance and distress for some.

4.1.1.1	Manage a partnership problem solving approach to crime and community safety through our Problem Solving Meeting, Community Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Panel.
4.1.1.2	Ensure public space Closed-circuit television (CCTV) is being used effectively to prevent crime and increase the likelihood of successful prosecution.
4.1.1.3	Manage the impact of drugs and alcohol on crime and anti-social behaviour.
4.1.1.4	Tackle serious crime and violence through the Sutton Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan.

3.4.2. Safe from Domestic Violence, Abuse and Sexual Violence

We will maintain a strong commitment to supporting women and girls, and all victims of domestic and sexual abuse, helping them to break free and recover from abusive relationships. We will support the Mayor's Public Health approach for tackling Violence Against Women and Girls which places a stronger emphasis on partnership working, prevention and education across a wide range of services

4.1.2.	Ensure effective strategic governance of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) through the Safer Sutton Partnership Board (SSPB).
4.1.2.3	Provide leadership for the DV MARAC

⁹ [LBS Terms of Reference for Problem Solving Meeting_March 2022.docx](#)

4.1.2.4	Provide leadership for the DV MARAC.
4.1.2.5	Contribute to the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to DVA.
4.1.2.5	Sign up to and promote the Women's Night Safety Charter and White Ribbon to end male violence against women and girls

3.5. Theme 2: Supporting Communities and Partnerships

Work is being undertaken to consult with a diverse range of young people within the borough to understand what their thoughts are about serious violence and the area they live in. The Safer Sutton Community Safety Partnership recognises that engagement in full-time, good quality education is a strong protective factor against young people being drawn into serious violence. The effects of permanent exclusion for a child can be long-lasting and life-limiting. Exclusion from school has been found to be a key factor in the stigmatisation of a young person, resulting in reduced life chances, limited opportunities for self-development and inhibited engagement in wider society. From a public health approach, the label of having been excluded can socially shape the actions of a child through to adulthood, often resulting in a cyclical reproduction of that stigma. Education providers are well placed to identify those at risk of serious violence and deliver interventions through their trusted relationships with children and young people.

We want communities and local partnerships to be at the heart of our multiple-strand approach to tackling serious violence. This outlines measures to help communities to build resilience and respond to serious violence. It also sets out measures to support vulnerable individuals, communities and the wider public through encouraging partners to take action to reduce the opportunities for crime to take place, including raising awareness of the key issues and how best to respond.

3.5.1. Safe on our Streets and Neighbourhoods

We will be taking a collaborative approach to tackling violent crime and the underlying causes of violent crime sharing in the Mayor of London's goal to stabilise and reduce violence across London. We will continue to actively target and deal with anti-social behaviour swiftly, when and where it occurs, recognising the nuisance and distress that it causes to people's lives. Our work around women's safety prioritises providing those experiencing or fearing violence with the support they need to be and feel safe.

4.2.1.1	Tackle environmental crime and disorder to reduce the fear of crime and reduce opportunities for crime to occur.
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4.2.1.2	Support neighbourhood watch to prevent crime and help local communities protect themselves and their properties.
4.2.1.3	To provide a targeted youth engagement and diversion programme in partnership with the Riverside Centre Association.
4.2.1.4	To commission Street Pastors to support our communities and our emergency services.
4.2.1.5	Support the Safer Neighbourhood Board to set local policing priorities and hold police to account and improve the Stop and Search process.
4.2.1.6	Support community and voluntary organisations to deliver activities and interventions in the areas of highest need.
4.2.1.7	Collaborate with schools, colleagues and alternative provision to tackle serious violence.
4.2.1.8	Create and deliver a coordinated community response, to prevent violence and abuse from happening and challenging inequality throughout the delivery of our VAWG services to prevent discrimination and address the impacts of intersectionality.

3.5.2. Safe from Harm and Exploitation

We will protect our children and young people, and those who may be vulnerable from undue influence, harm and exploitation, acknowledging the impact and the role that modern technology may have in this. We will support the public health approach to violence prevention particularly in relation to Contextual Safeguarding that seeks to improve the health and safety of young people by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.¹⁰

4.2.2.1	Tackle criminal exploitation, especially among young people.
4.2.2.2	Manage and support female offenders.
4.2.2.3	Support Sutton's Youth Justice Board and Integrated Youth Service.
4.2.2.4	Provide safety training and advice to young people.

¹⁰ [LBS Youth Justice Plan 2023-2025 Final](#)

4.2.2.5	Work with Licensing and Trading Standards to prevent the sale of prohibited goods to young people, incl. disrupting the potential supply of weapons to under 18s.
4.2.2.6	Monitor human trafficking/modern slavery, and be ready to take collaborative action should concerns arise.
4.2.2.7	To develop and embed a contextual safeguarding approach.
4.2.2.8	Tackle serious violence and organised crime e.g. county lines.

3.6. Theme 3: Disrupt, Divert, Protect and Enforce

While the focus of this strategy is early intervention and prevention, the Safer Sutton Community Safety Partnership remains committed to swift, visible justice for those who commit serious violence offences and exploit others into doing so. There are currently several ongoing high-visibility operations led by London Metropolitan Police that contribute to the reduction of serious violence across the borough. These police-led operations are complemented by other enforcement activities (utilising antisocial behaviour and licensing legislation) undertaken by Sutton Council's Community Safety, Compliance and Enforcement Services. In addition, Community and Voluntary sector partners commissioned by Sutton Council conduct disrupt and divert work through their outreach engagements.

3.6.1. Safe from Crime and its Consequences (Safe in Ourselves)

4.3.1.1	Support the Basic Command Unit (BCU) policing structure and work with colleagues in Croydon and Bromley to ensure community safety across the BCU.
4.3.1.2	Support the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit to respond to ASB and to work with victims and offenders.
4.3.1.3	Use the MPS DIVERT programme to support referrals from police custody to local providers to support education, employment and training.
4.3.1.4	Use the MPS DIVERT programme to support referrals from police custody to local providers to support education, employment and training.

4.3.1.5	Support an improved criminal justice response to all forms of serious violence.
4.3.1.6	Ensure the effective management of DVA offenders.
4.3.1.7	Identify and manage high harm offenders.

Our overall aim for Sutton is to make it one of the most difficult boroughs in London in which to commit crime or behave antisocially. By focusing our attention and resources on the most vulnerable and priority issues in the borough, we believe that we can over time reduce the repeat offending and victimisation locally. We will maintain tactical oversight of the Reducing Reoffending agenda and will support the reunification of probation services. Will we support any initiatives increasing access to restorative justice and we will continue to prioritise local and London priority neighbourhood crimes.

8. Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan

The Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan aligns to the three priority themes

partnership has agreed a range of activities to reduce the risks of violence and vulnerability, in support of the strategic objectives agreed across London. These are set out within a Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan. This plan contains information for which disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The plan contains seven different themes each with a set of mandatory actions as well as a menu of optional actions. The themes within the local plan are:

- 3.7. **Governance**- this provides an oversight of the leadership and governance of violence reduction locally, detailing the senior leadership structure as well as interoperability between Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Adults Safeguarding Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reduce violence
- 3.8. **Analysis and Enforcement**- understanding of how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally, including the Strategic Needs Assessment, monthly tasking meetings and using wider public health data

- 3.9. **Reducing Access to Weapons**- how partners are working jointly to minimise access including using Trading Standard initiatives and weapons sweeps
- 3.10. **Safeguarding and Educating Young people**- contains actions that include focussing on reducing exclusions, contextual safeguarding, support for children in care and care leavers, working with parents and carers and ensuring schools are safe and inclusive spaces
- 3.11. **Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence**- ensuring that local delivery works closely with communities to reduce violence including the Voluntary and Community Sector and in particular young people, who are most adversely affected by violence
- 3.12. **Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability**- ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are most vulnerable to being exploited
- 3.13. **Positive Diversion from Violence**- recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them before or to move away from criminality

As the serious violence definition includes domestic abuse and sexual violence, activity is also being undertaken in support of this through a range of actions, this has included modifying existing actions to encompass this (where relevant) as well as including a new section of actions listed below.

The domestic abuse and sexual violence specific actions are:

- To ensure strong referral pathways from statutory services into local and pan-London specialist support services, including 'by and for' provision for all victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences.
- To ensure all victims and perpetrators can access the support they need- including information on how they can access this support and where they can find more information. This might include the consideration of cross-borough reciprocal agreements.
- Coordinate an appropriate local awareness training offer for key professionals coming in to contact with survivors and/or perpetrators- such as health, education, social care and justice- which is refreshed annually.
- Local Authority departments such as children's social care, housing, adults social care and community safety, to ensure policies are in place regarding working with perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual offences when safeguarding children and the non-abusive parent.

9. Engagement

Local communities, the voluntary and community sector (VCS), local businesses and young people have an important role to play in violence reduction. Our local violence and vulnerability action plan contains a range of activity that involves communities and neighbourhoods, working alongside Safer Sutton Partnership and the MET Police to reduce violence. Over the last 12 months in the lead up to the development of this Serious Violence strategy there have been a variety of partnership consultation activities:

- The MET Police attended the School Council Youth Forum where young people from across a range of local area secondary schools raised their concerns around risks in the local area and requested a better focus on ongoing communication by the police with young people that was accessible and meaningful. This resulted in the coproduction of a termly newsletter for young people focused on safety in the borough.
- During Child Exploitation Awareness Week, a range of engagement activities were undertaken with young people and the local community to increase awareness of the risks of child exploitation. This included a survey completed with young people to better understand their perceptions/views regarding their safety.
- Young Commissioners meet every 2 weeks, except during the holiday periods. Their consultative input has shaped the Sutton LSCH Children & YP Engagement and Participation Subgroup Delivery Plan. Safety is one of four priorities within this plan. Under the safety priority, there are 3 key actions:
 - Improved communication with the police and a greater police presence in the High Street. More resources to support schools tackling the dangers of social media would help aid student's welfare
 - More awareness and support needed from local NHS groups about the dangers of vaping and its long-term health effects upon young people in schools (e.g via assemblies, workshops or lessons).
 - Encouraging students to take a more critical approach to their PSHE learning to develop diverse opinion amongst students and giving young people a secure and age-appropriate education in RSE.

A breakdown of Young Commissioners' engagement activities to support the development of the strategy is provided below:

BREAKDOWN OF ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2023		
	Activity	Outcome

Sutton Youth Board meeting	Key findings from engagement activities, including Joint School Councils' meetings, discussed.
	Child Exploitation survey discussed.
	Personal experiences and insights into various safety concerns facing young people in the community shared.
	Participants able to understand the diverse perspectives and challenges faced by their peers
	A series of valuable recommendations for professionals working with young people in Sutton and key agencies, to address identified safety concerns
Annual Youth Summit attended by over 80 young people	Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with organisations such as the Sutton Metropolitan Police Service Youth Engagement & Diversion Team, Sutton Women's Centre, Stop Hate UK, Gloves Not Gunz, Time Out Youth Project, Sutton Council, People Arise Now, Kooth UK, Cranston Here4YOUth, Sutton Community Works, Volunteer Centre Sutton, Carshalton College, ASK Amazing Apprenticeships, Sutton Carers Centre, Sutton School Nursing team, Sutton Family Hubs and Sutton Healthwatch.
	A more connected and empowered community, providing a platform for the youth to interact, learn, and thrive.
Police newsletter	Key messages of personal safety, from the perspectives of young people, shared through the local police newsletter.
School Council meetings	Safety concerns discussed within local schools
LSCP Board	Findings from the engagement with young people shared, and three themes put forward for the LSCP to support which included priorities for: "Inclusive Communities"

Safer Sutton Partnership Board including membership from Community Safety Sub Groups and Local Safer Neighborhood Boards will continue to consult and include communities and the VCS in violence reduction locally over the next 12 months.

Safer Sutton Partnership commissioned the Innovation Unit to co-develop community-led responses to serious violence in the borough. This 12 month project which commenced in October 2023 invites Sutton's community and residents, organisations, businesses and faith groups to work together to build strong partnerships for community cohesion and violence prevention. The project, which is still in phase 1, has three key objectives:

Key objectives for building community cohesion and violence prevention	
1	To increase community engagement and capacity-building initiatives
2	Empowering the community to lead long-term, sustainable solutions
3	To reduce serious youth violence incidents and promote community safety.

Phase 1 has focused on mapping community resources. The next phase commencing from Jan 24 will focus on engagement with the local community to:

- Understand perceptions of safety
- Develop collective mechanisms to prevent violence
- Mediate and resolve conflict at the neighbourhood level through the training up of Community Connectors/Volunteers.

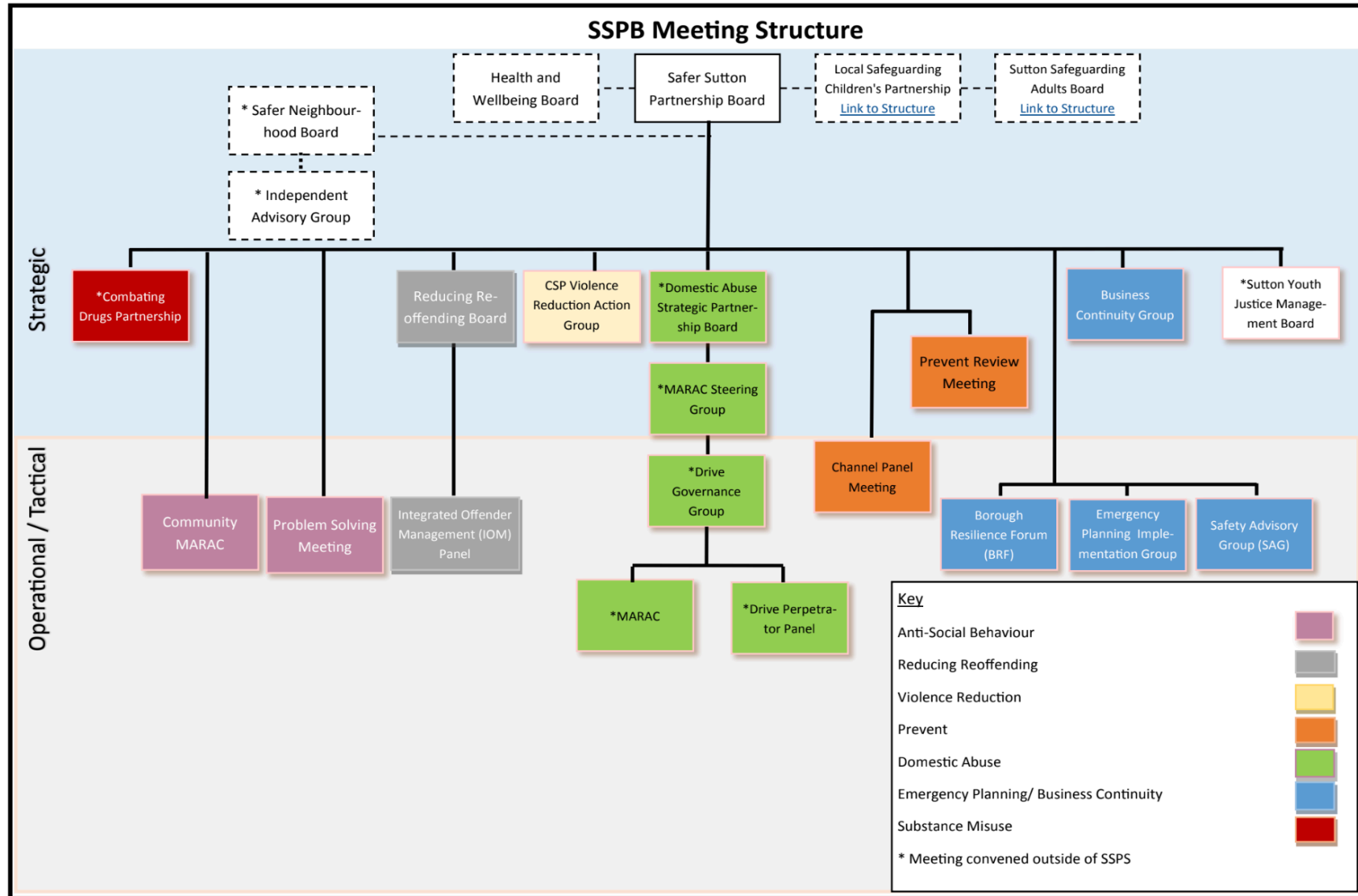
10. Identified funding streams or resources

Name and source of fund	Amount per annum	Activity	Description of activities
VRU	TBC	To reduce serious youth violence incidents and promote community safety:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop grassroots and community-led responses to prevent serious youth violence; • Understand local tensions and be able to better respond to critical incidents and reduce tensions- including young people and communities in helping to shape/lead the service.
		Empowers the community to lead to long-term, sustainable solutions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards effectively addressing the root causes of violence in the community; • Deliver community-led services in a way that empowers the community and leads to long-term, sustainable solutions.

		To increase community engagement and capacity-building initiatives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver community engagement activities to understand local tensions and respond to critical incidents; • Deliver a training and development programme for community champions and develop information/intelligence sharing appropriate to all partners to address critical incidents; • Also, empower communities to share critical information with the police and other authorities to prevent serious violence within their communities.
LCPF	TBC	To work with young people on a weekly sessional basis out in the community in various known locations of concern and those areas identified as service priorities, using a detached youth work approach to engagement.	
Public Health	TBC	Support members of the public and those most vulnerable in known “hotspot” locations. Signposting, offering guidance, reassurance and intervening to divert possible escalating situations	
MOPAC	TBC	Turnaround Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve positive outcomes for children with the ultimate aim of preventing them going on to offend; • Build on work already done to ensure all children on the cusp of the youth justice system are consistently offered a needs assessment and the opportunity for support; • Improve the socio-emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children; and • Improve the integration and partnership working between YOTs and other statutory services to support children.
MOPAC	TBC	Engage Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth workers see all under 18s detained in local custody suite; • Utilising “teachable moments” to engage and divert young people from YJS at earliest opportunity; • Youth workers to use restorative practice and solution focused theory; • Identify risk factors and offer appropriate targeted interventions; • Signpost parents/carers to interventions and support within the community

Draft

Appendix 1 - Overview of community child safety partnership arrangement



Appendix 2 - Overview of Sutton Local Child Safety Governance

