

# SAFER CORNWALL

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## PREVENTING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

### A Strategic Framework for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly



# Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
National and Local Context .....	4
Why focus on a prevention approach?.....	6
Ecological model of violence.....	7
<b>What the evidence says .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Our response .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Strategic Framework &amp; Delivery Plan.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Strategic Framework.....	18
Delivery Plan .....	19
How will we know we are making a difference? .....	20
Partnership structure and governance.....	21

# Introduction

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were first mandated under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998<sup>1</sup> to **bring local partners together to improve community safety**, recognising that no single organisation could achieve this alone.

**Safer Cornwall is Cornwall's CSP** and we have worked together for **more than 20 years** to keep Cornwall one of the safest places in the country.

The CSP is made up of **five responsible authorities** – Police, Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Integrated Care Board and Probation Service – working with a **broad range of other partners**.

As a unitary authority area, the Isles of Scilly have a separate CSP, **Safer Scilly**, and we work closely together to meet the needs of the wider footprint of our combined local area.

The main responsibility of every CSP is to develop and deliver an evidence-based, multi-agency strategy that **addresses both the causes and effects of crime** to support safe, healthy and resilient communities. CSPs must also develop and deliver a strategy to **reduce reoffending**.

Safer Cornwall fulfils these responsibilities through our three-year **strategic assessment and Partnership Plan**.<sup>2</sup>

The latest iteration of the **Plan incorporates new responsibilities** that have been placed on local partnerships in the last two years by key legislative and policy changes, providing new focus and funding to **drive local delivery of national priorities**. This includes the [Domestic Abuse Act](#), the [Serious Violence Duty](#) and the new [10-year Drugs Strategy](#).

The new **Serious Violence Duty**<sup>3</sup> sets out requirements for local areas to have a dedicated focus and plan for tackling serious violence. As well as the five statutory partners in the CSP, the Duty adds the **local Youth Justice Service as a specified authority**.

The Duty requires the specified authorities to plan, **share data** and information, develop a **strategic needs assessment** and **publish a strategy** by January 2024.

Specified authorities in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly have agreed **Safer Cornwall as the lead partnership** for delivery of the Duty locally. The strategic assessment and Partnership Plan produced by Safer Cornwall accounts for both the Serious Violence Duty and Crime and Disorder Act requirements, and this is in line with the Duty guidance.

This document is **an annex to the Partnership Plan** and sets out Strategic Framework for a prevention approach to tackling serious violence in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

<sup>1</sup> Crime and Disorder Act 1998, amended by Police Reform Act 2002, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Police and Justice Act 2006.

<sup>2</sup> The Strategic Assessment and Plan are published in the Safer Cornwall [Library](#). An Easy Read version is also available here.

<sup>3</sup> Introduced on 31 January 2023 via the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#). The PCSC Act also amends the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that tackling serious violence is an explicit priority for all Community Safety Partnerships.

## National and Local Context

The government launched the [Serious Violence Strategy](#) in 2018. The strategy focused on **homicide, knife crime, and gun crime** and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and County Lines drug dealing.

The Strategy drew attention to the **rising trend** in these offences and the **high level of harm** caused.

Although they account for only **1% of all recorded crime**, there is a **huge cost** to communities through **loss of life**, and the **trauma** caused through the **physical and psychological injuries** suffered. Violent crime can also affect **feelings of safety** within communities.

When the Duty was introduced, the government expanded the scope to include **domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats** of violence but **does not include terrorism**. This was intended to ensure that local areas target serious violence in all the **relevant contexts in line with their local profile**.

At national and police force level, the success of the Duty is measured through a reduction in **three headline indicators**:

- **Hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object** and especially among victims aged under 25

- **Knife-enabled serious violence** and especially amongst victims aged under 25
- **All homicides** but especially those that are non-domestic and among those victims aged under 25 involving knives

Whilst we recognise these measures as the focus of the national Strategy, they **do not reflect our local profile** of violence and do not align to a prevention approach. The numbers at local level are also **too low** to target effectively.



In September 2020, pre-empting the new Duty, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable founded the Devon and Cornwall **Serious Violence Prevention Programme**, which aimed to understand the scale and nature of violence across the Peninsula and provide a strategy to tackle its drivers in partnership.

Crest Advisory<sup>4</sup> were commissioned to **develop an evidence base** to inform the strategy and from this a [new prevention approach](#) was launched that aims to break the cycle of violence, **focusing on young people under 25**.

CSPs in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly<sup>5</sup> were provided with

<sup>4</sup> A crime and justice consultancy [www.crestadvisory.com](http://www.crestadvisory.com). Crest have since been appointed as the Home Office's support partner to help local areas prepare and implement the Duty

<sup>5</sup> The Peninsula incorporates 5 upper tier CSPs - Cornwall, Plymouth, Devon, Torbay and the Isles of Scilly. Safer Devon is the strategic County Level partnership with 4 lower tier CSPs representing the 8 district/city councils within Devon County.

funding to develop and deliver a local programme of work to support the Peninsula Strategy.

When the new Duty arrived, **CSPs looked to expand their approach to meet the new requirements**, including developing local needs assessments and strategies, **building on existing CSP work** to prevent and reduce violence in its various contexts and complementing the Peninsula Programme.

Key elements of the Duty therefore, such as **local needs assessment and strategy**, are being developed and **led by each upper-tier CSP**, with a **central strategic group** to support pan-Peninsula co-ordination and opportunities.

Specified authorities in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly agreed to proceed to establish the Peninsula-level **Strategic Serious Violence Prevention Partnership** on this basis in December 2024.

Ways of working are set out in a statutory **Partnership Agreement** which outlines how all the specified authorities in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will meet the Duty, including its core elements.

Partners have also made a commitment via a **Serious Violence Prevention Concordat** to collaborate at a Peninsula-level in response to serious violence.

## Why focus on a prevention approach?

A 'public health approach' considers **crime as a result of a range of factors** such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences and not as isolated incidents to be dealt with solely via an enforcement approach.

Experience of **violence is a risk factor for other negative health and social outcomes** across the life course, so preventing violence also makes a significant contribution to improving the **health and wellbeing of the population**.

There are **three levels**<sup>6</sup> of violence prevention:



**Early identification and interventions** are key to preventing violence and this requires a **long-term, whole-system approach** and a shared, sustained effort by all key organisations working together **in and with communities**.

### The ecological model for understanding violence

**No single factor explains why** some individuals behave violently toward others or why violence is more prevalent in some communities than it is in others.

Violence is the result of the **complex interplay of factors** at an individual and family level, and at a wider community and societal level. These can **change over time**, depending on factors like age. Risk factors often **occur in clusters** and **interact with each other** within the broader social, cultural and economic contexts.

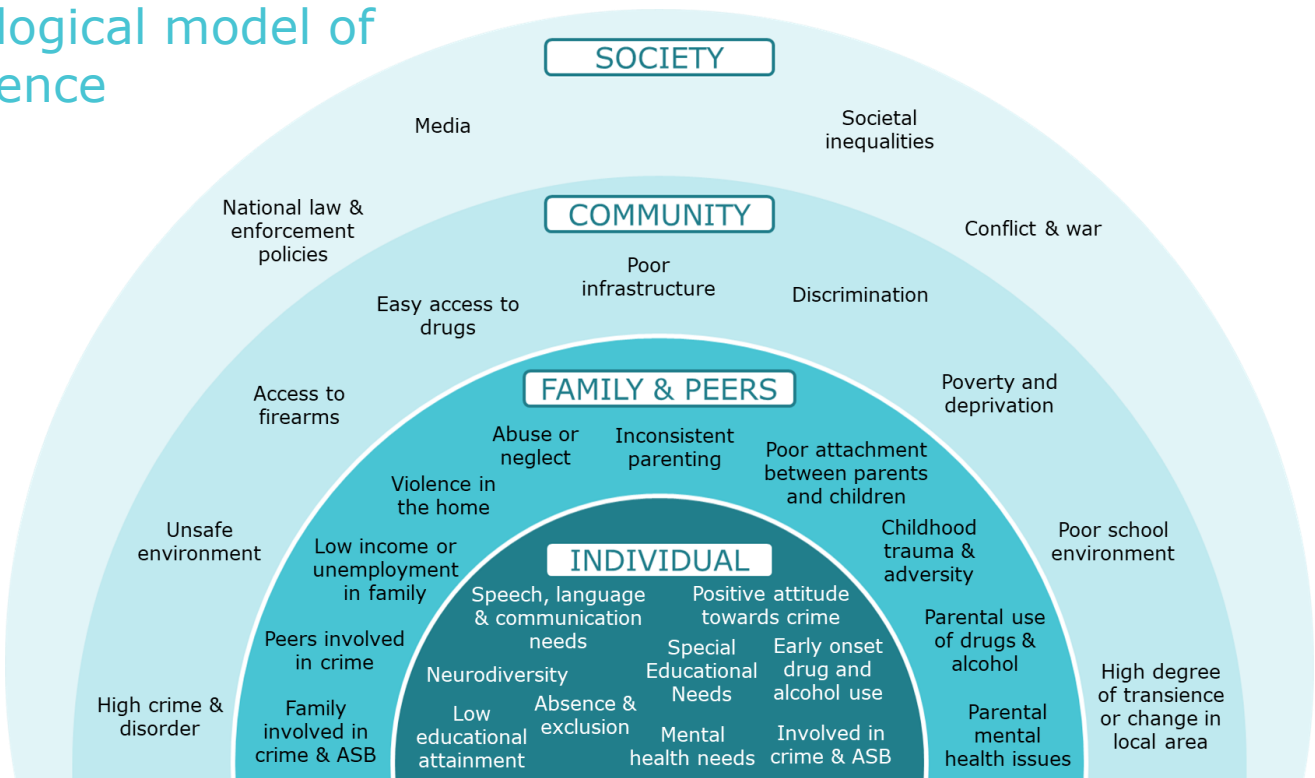
Addressing **risk factors across the four levels** of the ecological model may contribute to decreases in more than one type of violence.

For example, **healthy relationships education** addresses risk factors at an individual, family and community level, with the aim of preventing domestic abuse and addressing a key risk factor for youth violence.

**Protective factors** act against risk factors and can explain why children who face the same level of risk are affected differently. A **combination of protective factors** can prevent the harmful influence of risk factors that have accumulated over a child's development.

<sup>6</sup> [Preventing serious violence: a multi-agency approach](#), Guidance, Public Health England,

# Ecological model of violence



## INDIVIDUAL

- Good school readiness
- Healthy problem-solving
- Emotional regulation skills
- Supported to achieve academically

## FAMILY & PEERS

- A stable and secure home
- Nurturing and responsive relationships
- Consistent parenting
- Positive social interactions and friendship groups

## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

## COMMUNITY

- Positive teacher/other significant adult relationships
- A sense of belonging
- Opportunities for sport/hobbies
- A safe environment
- Access to services and social support
- Economic opportunities

## SOCIETY

- Challenges to social and cultural 'norms' that promote inequality
- Policies that promote and support healthy relationships and respectful behaviours
- Enforcing laws that protect people from violence



# What the evidence says

## How do we define serious violence?

Violence **covers a wide range of harm** from minor assaults to harassment and psychological abuse and, at the most serious end of the scale, life-changing injuries or death.

The World Health Organisation defines violence as *"The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."*

In responding to the Duty, local areas are encouraged to explore and agree a **local definition of serious violence** based on local needs.

**Serious violence** is already defined in different ways. The Home Office identifies a specific group of crime types that make up **'most serious' violence** and tools such as the [Cambridge Harm Index](#) are used to understand what behaviours cause the most harm.

The national **Serious Violence Strategy** has a specific focus on young people, gangs, drug-related violence and weapons.

### Cornwall - key statistics<sup>7</sup>

- **29,450 recorded crimes** ▶-0.3%
- **5 homicides** ▲ up from 4 the previous year
- **4,547 violence with injury** crimes ▼-6%
  - Of which **35%** relate to domestic abuse, 1,574 crimes ▼-5%
  - **338 serious violence** offences<sup>8</sup> ▼-13%; 7% of violence with injury
- **366 weapons** possession crimes ▲+8%
  - 166 Knife/blade ▼-11%
  - 37 Firearm ▲+28%
- **631 rape** offences ▲+11% and **1,068 other** sexual offences ▲+8%
  - Of which 20% relate to domestic abuse, 333 crimes ▶+2%
- **131 robberies** ▲+24%
- Offences committed by **young people** [Youth Justice Service, 2022/23]
  - 211 violent crimes, of which 10 relate to serious violence ▶
  - 30 sexual offences ▶
  - 37 possession of weapons offences ▲
- **412 assault presentations** to ED/MIUs ▶-2% [2022/23]
- **91 ambulance call-outs** to stab/gunshot incidents ▲+30%

Force level statistics: [year to Sep-22]

- **791 knife crimes** (use of a knife) ▲+20%; 3% of all crime
- **117 gun crimes** (use of a gun) ▶-1%; <1% of all crime

<sup>7</sup> Police data covers the year to 31 July 2023 unless otherwise stated, and change from last year

<sup>8</sup> Includes murder and attempts, grievous bodily harm (GBH) and wounding (with and without intent) and possession of a weapon with intent to do GBH



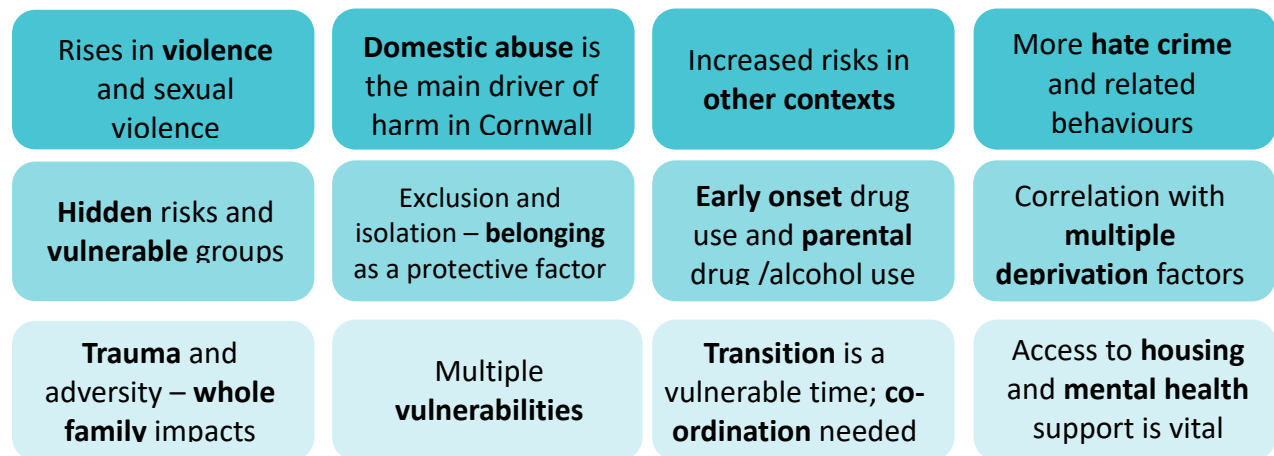
The **Youth Justice Service** offers a further definition of *'any drug, robbery or violence against the person offence that has a gravity score of five or more.'*

With a **prevention approach**, however, the aim is to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence in our communities, at **the earliest**

**opportunity** and in **whatever contexts** it occurs.

In Cornwall, we have interpreted serious violence as **violence that causes life-changing injuries or death**, and our focus is on identifying our priorities based on the **contexts in which violence takes place**.

## What did we find?



## Prevalence and trends

- Overall Cornwall is a **low crime area** compared with similar areas nationally and this largely reflects a very **low rate of thefts** (other than shoplifting).
- Rates of violence, including **domestic and sexual violence** are more in line with similar areas nationally. The numbers of these crimes have risen **above pre-pandemic levels**.
- **Pandemic** restrictions forced a big drop in public space violence. In Cornwall during this time, violence rates appeared **disproportionately high** due to domestic abuse (which continued unabated), accounting for a **higher proportion** of violent crime locally.
- **Knife crime accounts for only 3%** of all crime in Devon and Cornwall. We have had a **small number of serious events** involving weapons that have had a 'signal' effect on communities, driving up fear of crime.
- **Domestic abuse remains the main driver of harm** in Cornwall, both in the context of violence experienced now and as a feature of **Adverse Childhood Experiences** with long-term impacts on future outcomes.
- **Risk of violence has increased in other contexts**, such as violence involving young people, alcohol-related and public space violence (but outside the traditional Night Time Economy context).
- **More hate crime** being reported, particularly racist behaviours.

### Prevalence and trends (continued)

- **Referrals into services** for domestic abuse support have increased and since 2020 we have seen a much higher rate of **domestic homicides**.
- **Reports of sexual offences increased sharply** from March 2021, with high profile national incidents, media and campaigns cited as likely factors, as well as a potential rise in the number of victims. There was a **further rise** in rape and other sexual offences over the last 12 months.
- The **Isles of Scilly have very low crime rates** compared with Cornwall. Whilst it is not identified as a priority area for violence prevention, there are some **specific features** to consider – such as the impact of the **huge influx of seasonal workers** and **safeguarding risks for young people**, on the islands and moving to the mainland for education. Like Cornwall, **domestic abuse is identified as a significant driver of harm**, the extent of which may be more hidden in close-knit island communities.

### Who is most at risk

- For all types of violence, the **risk of victimisation is significantly greater for younger people** and victimisation reduces with age. Except for sexual violence, where young people under 18 are at greatest risk, the **18 to 34 age group** experiences the highest rates of violence.
- **Males and females are equally likely to be victims** of violence, but the **type of violence experienced differs**. Females are more likely to experience domestic abuse and sexual violence; whereas males are more likely to experience street violence.
- Violence resulting in **serious injury** is more likely to be **non-domestic** and involve a **male victim**. This type of violence is also more likely to **involve alcohol** as a contributory factor.
- **People who engage in violent or abusive behaviours** often have previous or current **experience of victimisation** themselves, with the **same risk factors** and vulnerabilities having an impact.
- Following the pandemic, we have seen that **young people's wellbeing and social functioning** have been significantly affected. For some young people this is **affecting their behaviour** with their peers and in the wider community.
- A rise in **young people behaving anti-socially** has been a growing theme over the last 12 months. We have also seen **more violence** amongst young people and raised concerns about **weapon carrying**. The number of serious violence offences committed by young people, however, is very low.
- Most young people feel safe and that they belong in their school community, but **feelings of safety and belonging** are lower for those of secondary school age, **particularly girls**.
- We are seeing **less community tolerance for young people**, particularly when seen together in groups, which we need to balance against the actual risks. The need for more **places and activities for young people** has been highlighted through consultation with communities and partners.

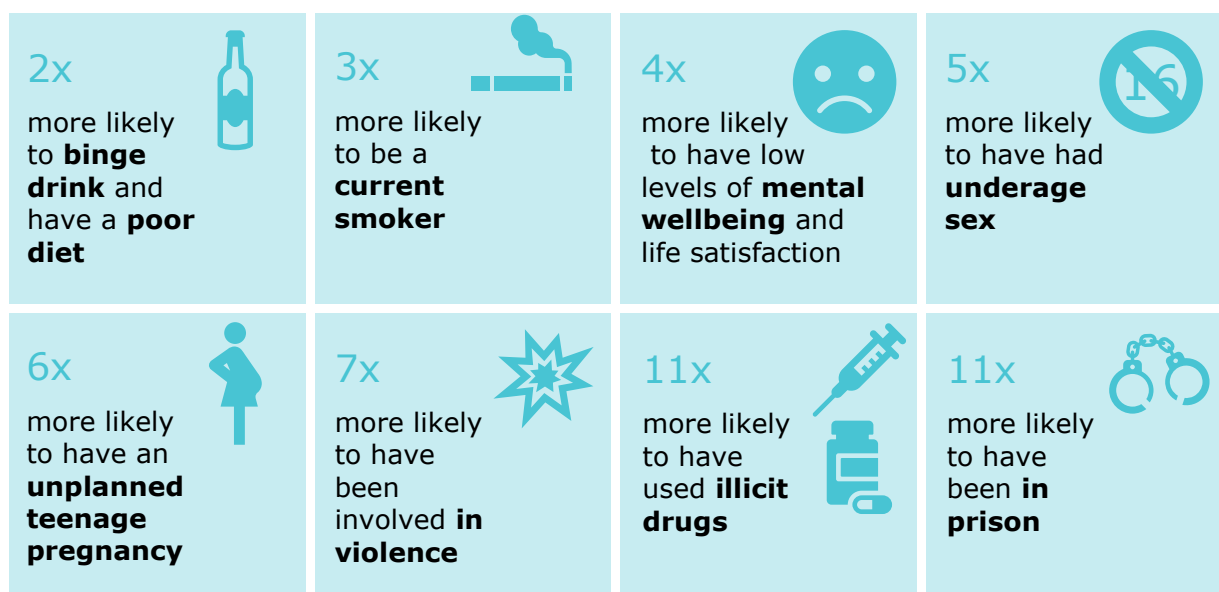
## Understanding multiple vulnerabilities

- Across all our commissioned services, adults and young people seeking help often have a **highly complex mix of vulnerabilities** and they need longer, more **intensive interventions**.
- This is a long term trend, compounded by COVID impacts and more recently the **cost of living** crisis and difficulties accessing **essential support** such as housing, and mental health services.
- Young people receiving help from drug and alcohol services in Cornwall are more likely to start **using drugs at an early age** and to be affected by **parental drug and alcohol use**. These issues can have a significant impact on how young people develop.
- 3 out of 4 young people engaged with the Youth Justice Service have **speech, language and communication** needs and/or **neurodiversity**.
- **Unresolved trauma and adversity in a parent** impact significantly on children in a family as well as continuing for the parent. The Ofsted report on Early Help highlighted that half of cases focussed on child behaviours but **did not address parental behaviours** that were impacting on the child.
- Violence, particularly domestic abuse, is **strongly correlated with the presence of multiple deprivation factors**, and most strongly linked to income, employment, health, and education, skills and training – in-line with the ecological model for violence prevention.

## Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – how do they affect the lives of young people?

ACEs impact on a **child's development** and their **relationships with others**. Multiple ACEs increase the risk of engaging in **health-harming behaviours** and experiencing poorer **mental and physical health outcomes** in adulthood.

Compared with people who have experienced no ACEs, those with **4 or more ACEs** are:



Source: Public Health England, from Bellis et al, 2012 and 2013 studies

## Our response

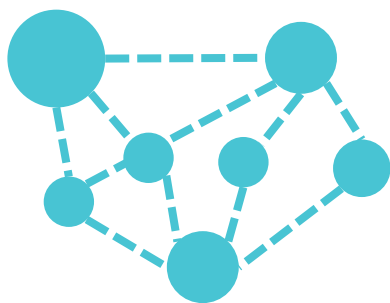
The evidence base for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly shows us that violence **spans many contexts**, including domestic abuse and sexual violence, peer-to-peer violence amongst young people, violence in public places, and exploitation and drug trafficking, with **significant overlap** between them.

We already have established [thematic strategies](#) addressing these as critical issues in their own right, each drawing on their own evidence and needs assessments and providing a **prevention focus through a specific thematic lens**.

In addition, we recognise that there are many strategies and delivery models in place that aim to address the **underlying risk factors** for of violent behaviours, **reduce health inequalities** and **build resilience** in communities.

This Strategic Framework presents our **first steps to understanding our local system** and identifying what we need to do collectively to **add value** and lead a more effective system response.

This is the first iteration and it will be developed through a **continuous learning approach**, following the principles of Human Learning Systems.<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> [Human Learning Systems](#)

### A Human Learning Systems approach

Human Learning Systems is an emergent approach to delivering public services based on an acceptance that **people's issues are complex and so are the systems** that respond to them.

It recognises that **outcomes are created by whole systems**, which include all the relationships and factors in a person's life – and not simply delivered by public services.

This means developing a system approach that **responds to each person's unique life context**, with public services being bespoke by design: **co-produced** with the people that use them and built on **strong relationships and trust**.

A systems approach creates an **effective learning environment** that supports people to **explore and learn together** – through testing different ways of working, gathering data, reflecting on what has worked well and what we could do better and adapting our plans accordingly.

### What is in place

Safer Cornwall has recently launched [five-year strategies](#) to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence and violence against women and girls, supported by a comprehensive evidence base. **Both strategies prioritise prevention** and early identification as part of a holistic system response.

A tri-partnership event was held in October to launch the strategies, focusing on tackling the **root causes**

**of unhealthy relationships and driving culture change** to end violence against women and girls.

These strategies form part of a **'matrix approach' to tackle violence** in Cornwall, alongside the local Drugs Strategy and the Exploitation Strategy (under the umbrella of the Partnership Plan) and Youth Justice Plan.

All of these strategies **include provision for the Isles of Scilly**.

The **Serious Violence Steering Group** is developing local responses to prevent violence, with a particular focus on **young people up to the age of 25** – with funding provided through the Serious Violence Prevention Programme and wider work to implement the new Serious Violence Duty.

**Expertise around NTE violence is well-established**, with limited but adequate resources in place across a range of agencies to provide a response, targeted according to risk and vulnerability.

Schools are a **critical component** in any prevention strategy, providing an important context in which to deliver **universal preventative interventions**, and acting as a **protective factor** to reduce risk.

**The support offer to schools has improved** in relation to violence, including a new Weapons and Violence Protocol, School Safeguarding Reviews specific to violence and the redesign of the Education Welfare Service.

The new **Exploitation Strategy** for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly includes the outcome "Children are

**safe in school** and feel like they belong."

Underpinning these strategies is Safer Cornwall's **Compassionate Cornwall** strategy. This is focused on developing a **collective commissioning approach** that will improve engagement and support for all people experiencing the **impacts of trauma**.

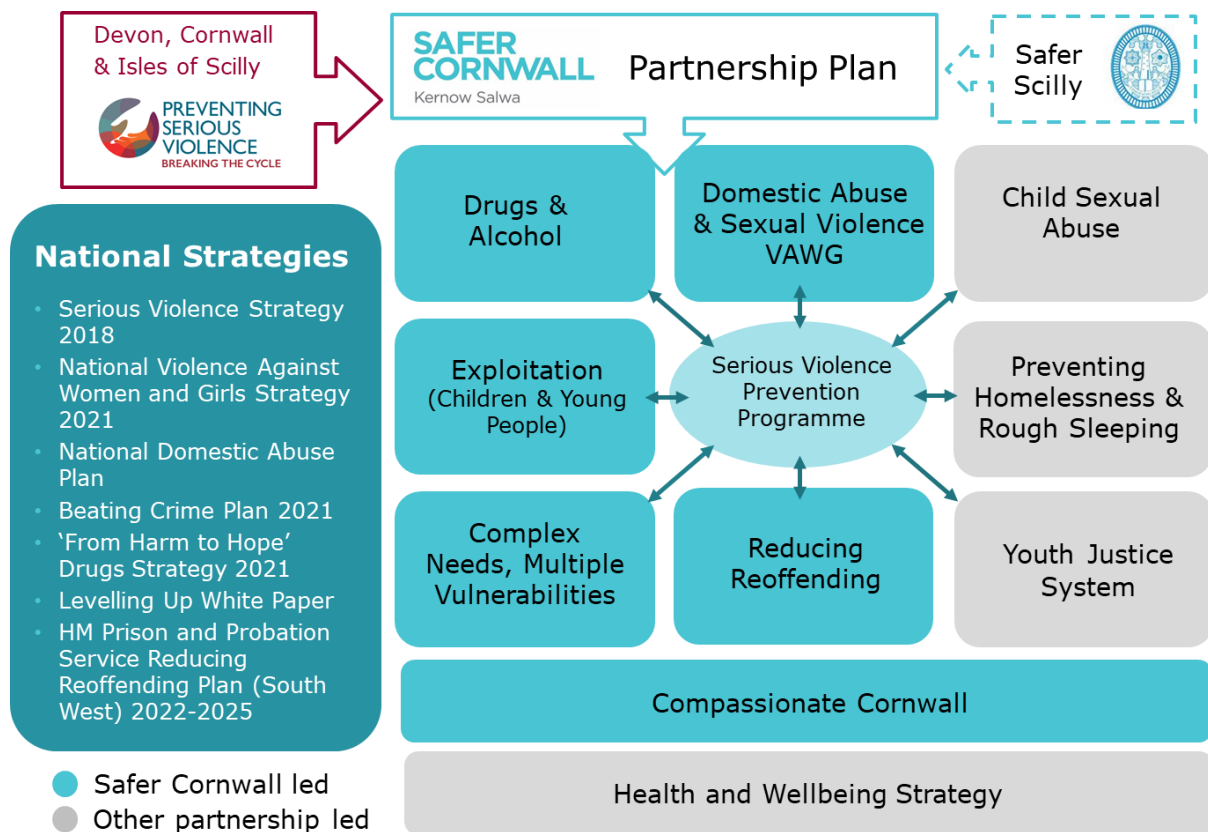
This work aims to identify **good practice**, initiate a **self-assessment** phase for all services and organisations and agree on the development of a **safe and able workforce**. There is a focus on **whole family approaches and primary prevention** to break the cycle of intergeneration trauma.

This is planned as an **all-age framework** to be taken through the system in 2024/25.

These thematic strategies are also set against a backdrop of the [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) which focuses on **working together to tackle health inequalities**, so that everyone can enjoy good health and wellbeing, and grow, live, work and age well.

There are a wide range of other strategies and plans that form part of the response in key areas of the system, such as the **Child Sexual Abuse Strategy** (led by Our Safeguarding Children Partnership) and the **Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy** (led by the Strategic Homelessness Forum).

## Strategy map



## Core thematic strategies and their priorities

### Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

- Provide statutory domestic abuse support within **safe accommodation**
- Develop the **Healthy Relationships Alliance** across Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- Embed our prevention approach by rolling out **Healthy Relationships 'train the trainer'** and **Bystander interventions**
- **Increase access to services** and break down barriers
- Develop and promote **behaviour change approaches** for people engaging in abusive behaviours
- Prioritise **a learning approach** by bringing together partners and experts by experience to improve the system for those who use it

### Drugs and alcohol

- Improve **education programmes** for schools and outreach with young people
- Reduce **drug related deaths**
- Improve **mental health, employment and housing** outcomes
- Reduce **caseload sizes**; improve treatment **quality and effectiveness**
- Co-ordinate response to **County Lines** and Dangerous Drug Networks



### Exploitation

- **Support communities** to help us prevent and tackle exploitation
- Deliver a **rapid and effective local response**
- **Train our workforce** to help them identify and respond to exploitation in their role
- Support schools and parents to promote **inclusion and belonging** in school.

### Complex Needs, multiple vulnerabilities

- **Co-ordinate services** to work better together
- **Upskill the workforce** to identify and work with a range of needs
- Bring together locally based services and support at **Safe and Well Hubs**
- Lead and learn through the **Trauma Informed Network** for Cornwall
- Enable the system to deliver **intensive support** that achieves sustainable solutions

### Reduce Reoffending

- Collectively address the **key factors for offending**
- Ensure that prison leavers have **strong foundations for successful lives**
- Involve victims of crime and **people with lived experience** throughout service design and delivery
- Support **children whose parents are entering prison**
- **Employment and housing support** for all offenders

### Youth Justice Plan

Led by the Youth Justice Management Board

- Diversion and prevention
- Participation and collaboration
- Diversity and disproportionality
- Community engagement and belonging
- Education, Training and Employment
- Health and wellbeing

### A collaborative approach

We held a 'Systems Day' to establish our **collective approach for a delivery framework** for preventing serious violence. Partners came together to discuss and agree **key themes** for focus from 2024 and identify where we could, through collaboration, **add the most value**.

### Where did we start?

- We have **a lot in place and delivering already** – particularly in the secondary/tertiary prevention tier, but less primary prevention.
- A **system approach** means understanding how all the elements contribute to preventing violence. The focus should be on

**improving what we already do in the statutory sector** and diverting **investment into the VCSE sector**.

- **Learning together** builds relationships and interagency collaboration and support.
- **Partnership working** is a real strength in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly – but we need to focus on improving outcomes and not organisational issues.



## Key themes – adding value

### See the whole family picture

- If you **look beyond a child's presenting behaviour**, you often uncover unresolved trauma for the parent
- Many of the **symptoms of trauma** (the child's response to adversity) are **misunderstood** as behavioural problems or symptoms of mental illness.
- **Identifying and addressing unresolved trauma** breaks the cycle of harm; reducing harm in the present and preventing future harm/re-enactment of violence.
- **Abusive parent/family member role** in changing the story and owning the harm caused (only if safe to do so – it could also be the role of someone else with a trusted relationship); build the counter narrative
- All child assessments should routinely ask about **previous trauma/adversity in the family**; move towards whole family assessments every time

### See the signs and act early – focus on pre-birth and 0-5 years

- Learn from **common trajectories**, these are easy to spot at a very early age
- Provide **non-judgemental support that everyone can access** – sensitive parenting and pathways into help; if it is accessible to people with multiple vulnerabilities, it is accessible to everyone

- **Universal information** should be easy to access – for example, by schools

### Belonging as a protective factor

- This could mean at home, in school, in the wider community
- Placement in **emergency housing** and/or frequently having to move home has a **de-stabilising impact** – a secure base from which to build relationships with key people that provide help and support school engagement is critical.

### Act before and outside statutory services

- A long-term prevention approach will **reduce demand** on statutory services; the harm has already taken effect by the time an issue reaches statutory thresholds for intervention.
- Voluntary and Community Sector organisations are ideally placed to form a **trusted relationship** with family
- **More creative solutions** – less prescriptive specifications and funding agreements (difficult to achieve with external grants).

### Build compassion through trauma and adversity awareness

- Within families, professionals and the wider community. Move towards a "*what's happened to you?*" approach rather than focusing on symptoms.

# Strategic Framework & Delivery Plan

This document presents the first iteration of a new Strategic Framework for a **system approach to preventing serious violence** in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. It summarises the **key themes**, the **priority people and places**, broad delivery areas and **intermediate outcomes** that will contribute to achieving our overall vision.

It is intended to be an **iterative document**, developed through a **multi-agency learning approach** that will create opportunities for **co-production with local communities**, particularly with people who are most affected by violence.

The **Delivery Plan** presents interventions/services currently being delivered in Cornwall, which **contribute to meeting the needs identified** through the strategic needs assessment.

This is **not intended to be an exhaustive list**, but rather provides examples of interventions/services that fall into each of the prevention tiers and provide **opportunities for partnership working and system learning**.

Alongside the established programmes there are **developing projects** that are either in a pilot phase or about to start delivery.

The last group are **aspirational projects** that the Serious Violence Prevention Programme intends to work towards and influence with partner organisations.

Some projects are new areas of work that it has been agreed that the **Serious Violence Prevention Programme will lead on or**

**collaborate** with other partners to develop. This may include providing some **funding through the Serious Violence Duty Grant**.

Other aspirational projects are expected to be achieved through the Serious Violence Prevention Programme providing **system leadership and learning support** to work together towards a **shared outcome**.

Projects that are being **directly delivered** through the Serious Violence Prevention Programme (lead/collaboration) are highlighted in bold.

**Safer Cornwall** will oversee the implementation of this strategy, via the multi-agency **Serious Violence Prevention Programme (SVPP) Steering Group**. This group will:

- Link with the local **thematic Delivery Groups** – including Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board, the local Drug Strategy Partnership and other relevant partnership groups to ensure **shared ownership of the priorities**.
- **Support the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner** in its convening role by providing information required by the Home Office on programme delivery, compliance with the Duty and spend against the Serious Violence Duty Grant (currently for 2024/25 only).
- Collaborate with other Community Safety Partnerships and Peninsula partners to meet the commitments set out in the **Serious Violence Prevention Concordat**.

## Long term vision: We can all live free of violence and the fear of violence

### Key themes and contexts

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	Violence Against Women and Girls	Drugs and Alcohol	Complex Needs, Multiple Vulnerabilities	Exploitation	Youth Justice	Reducing Reoffending
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### Priority people and places

<b>Pre-birth</b> and children <b>aged 0-5</b>	Children at risk of <b>suspension/exclusion</b>	Families at risk of going into <b>temporary housing</b>	Geographical areas of <b>deprivation / disadvantage</b>
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Prevention				
Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Culture and workforce	Learning, evaluation and data
Tackle the risk factors for serious violence to prevent harm from happening	Early identification and intervention to stop an emerging problem from taking hold	Reduce harm and prevent further harm where violence is already happening		
<b>A life-course approach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-birth and early years</li> <li>Schools</li> <li>Adolescence</li> <li>Transition</li> <li>Parents and carers</li> </ul>	Respond to emerging risk factors - <b>see the signs and act early</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic abuse</li> <li>Parental experience of adversity and trauma</li> <li>Drug and alcohol use</li> <li>Isolation and exclusion</li> <li>Poverty and deprivation</li> </ul> <b>Belonging</b> as a protective factor	Co-ordinated, <b>people-centred</b> support – focus on “ <i>what happened to you?</i> ” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Specialist support services</b> that are trauma and adversity informed</li> <li><b>Co-ordination</b> of services – reduce duplication and silo-working</li> <li><b>Trusted relationships</b> and consistent support</li> </ul>	<b>Workforce</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train a <b>compassionate workforce</b> and embed trauma and adversity informed practice</li> </ul> <b>Service development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve/support/grow <b>Experts by Experience</b> – young people and families</li> <li>Create opportunities for <b>co-design and co-production</b></li> </ul> <b>Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create trauma and adversity informed <b>environments</b></li> </ul>	<b>Learning and evaluation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An <b>iterative approach</b> – initial framework, test, reflect, develop, shared outcomes</li> <li><b>Test and learn</b> – Human Learning Systems approach</li> <li>Build understanding of what leads to positive outcomes – <b>focus on learning</b> not KPIs</li> <li><b>Celebrate success</b> and share evidence of what works</li> </ul> <b>Data:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build <b>multi-agency data sets</b></li> <li>Identify <b>new data sets</b> and <b>collaboration</b> opportunities to develop the SNA</li> <li>Foster <b>learning and knowledge exchange</b> between partners</li> <li>Scope and develop use of <b>predictive analytics</b></li> </ul>

### Intermediate Outcomes

<b>Child assessments</b> routinely ask about <b>parental trauma and adversity</b> ; a whole family approach <b>is the norm</b>	Families are offered support at the <b>earliest opportunity</b> ; support is easy to access and <b>non-judgmental</b>	<b>Schools</b> are supported to provide a <b>protective environment</b> ; children are <b>not excluded</b>	Families do not experience <b>repeat child removals</b>	Communities are <b>aware of trauma and adversity</b> and how it impacts; people <b>show compassion</b> to others	Services are <b>designed by the people</b> that use them; <b>barriers</b> to support are identified and removed	We develop, share and act on <b>system learning</b>	We <b>improve our understanding</b> of serious violence and its drivers; we build our knowledge about <b>effective solutions</b>
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KEY	<b>E: Established</b> Provided through Serious Violence Prevention Programme Wider System interventions/approaches	<b>D: Developing</b> Led by Serious Violence Prevention Programme Wider System interventions/approaches	<b>A: Aspirational</b> Serious Violence Prevention Programme collaboration/lead Wider System interventions/approaches
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<b>Workstream 1: Prevention</b>			
	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Tertiary</b>
<b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health visiting</li> <li>School Nursing (5-19 years)</li> <li>Healthy Relationships Programmes (adults and schools)</li> <li>Schools drug and alcohol education programme</li> <li>Universal activities for young people (sports, arts, social connections)</li> <li>Other PSHE and schools inputs</li> <li>Trauma Informed Schools</li> <li>Family Hubs</li> <li>Wild Young Parents project</li> <li>Community Bystander Training</li> <li>Neighbourhood regeneration and investment</li> <li>Safe environment: street lighting, safeguarding on public transport, alcohol licensing controls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Help and MARU</li> <li>Early Years Inclusion Service</li> <li>Schools: Operation Encompass (DA); Weapons and Violence Protocol, Safeguarding Reviews for violence</li> <li>Targeted activities for young people with emerging vulnerability factors</li> <li>Family Hubs (more targeted support)</li> <li>Targeted Parenting Programmes</li> <li>Gweres Teyluyow – support for primary age children with complex emotional and/or behavioural issues who are at risk of entering the care system</li> <li>Support for children as affected others - in families where an adult is affected by domestic abuse</li> <li>Support for children as affected others - in families where an adult uses drugs and/or alcohol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trauma informed youth justice service and GTY (Adolescent Service)</li> <li>Operational safeguarding response for exploitation (children and adults up to the age of 25) – MACE and LDSM</li> <li>Gweres Kernow (support for children with Harmful Sexual Behaviours)</li> <li>Jigsaw (support for children and families with alleged sexual abuse)</li> <li>Educational Psychology</li> <li>Young people's MDTs</li> <li>Employment and housing initiatives for people in specialist services</li> <li>Drug and Alcohol Service (adults and young people)</li> <li>Safer Futures integrated DASV service – IDVAs, therapy, recovery toolkit, behaviour change programme</li> <li>DASV support in safe accommodation</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-designed activities for young people</li> <li>Expand schools drug and alcohol education programme (Safer Streets 5)</li> <li>Healthy Relationships Alliance and expansion to more schools</li> <li>'Train the trainer' community bystander training model</li> <li>Safer Cornwall Wellbeing Series for parents and carers (e-workshops)</li> <li><b>Training to reduce/manage risks linked to knife carrying</b> – bespoke package for workers in Cornwall</li> <li><b>Scilly "Education of Island life" training package</b> (seasonal workers, licensed premises staff and partners)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Co-designed activities for young people with emerging vulnerability factors</b></li> <li><b>Support for children affected by parental imprisonment (CAPI pilot)</b></li> <li>Hotspot policing initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Navigator pilot for young people aged 18-24 that do not meet thresholds for statutory involvement</b></li> </ul>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence-based life-skills and bullying prevention programmes in schools</li> <li><b>Enhanced parental support for young parents with babies</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Trauma-Informed System Lead and 'whole family' support model</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Model of support to prevent repeat child removals</b> (collaboration)</li> <li><b>Support for young people at risk of suspension, on part-time timetables or with Emotionally Based School Avoidance</b> (collaboration)</li> </ul>

<b>Workstream 2: Culture and workforce</b>			
<b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-agency training in trauma informed practice (for example, Our Safeguarding Children Partnership and health offers)</li> <li>Trauma Informed Network Cornwall (TINC) where professionals learn from each other, share and evolve best practice</li> <li>Upskilling the workforce - training and accredited tools are available in: Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Violence, Trauma informed approaches, Drugs, Alcohol, Suicide, Mental health, County Lines and Exploitation</li> </ul>		
<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A sustainable and fully funded delivery model for multi-agency workforce development</li> <li>An all-age framework for commissioning services for people impacted by trauma and adversity (planned for 2024/25)</li> <li><b>Young people participation framework, including long term sustainability plan</b></li> </ul>		
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve routine enquiry for ACEs and screening for the impacts of trauma and adversity within our services</li> <li>Public campaigns that promote trauma and adversity awareness</li> <li><b>A cross-organisational approach to 'whole family assessments' – shared models and principles</b></li> <li><b>Develop capacity for a Trauma Informed System Lead for families</b></li> </ul>		

<b>Workstream 3: Learning, evaluation and data</b>			
<b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overarching Information Sharing Protocol in place – core data sets (such as police data) are routinely shared</li> <li><b>Community safety strategic assessment includes serious violence</b>; supported by a suite of thematic needs assessments, learning and research</li> <li><b>Map and gap analysis undertaken of services that contribute to violence prevention</b></li> <li><b>Development and implementation of interventions (SVPP) are monitored</b></li> </ul>		
<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Further research into different approaches to reduce violence, and address risk and protective factors</b></li> <li><b>Evaluations of existing programmes and interventions; sharing success and learning with other CSPs</b></li> </ul>		
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Scope availability/quality of data and information to enhance the evidence base – focus on health and education</b></li> <li><b>Develop 'journey maps' to enhance the evidence base (focused on people with complex stories)</b></li> <li><b>Develop, implement and promote a Human Learning Systems approach for violence prevention</b></li> </ul>		

## How will we know we are making a difference?

At national and police force level, the success of the Duty is measured through a reduction in **three headline indicators**:

- **Hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object** and especially among victims aged under 25
- **Knife-enabled serious violence** and especially amongst victims aged under 25
- **All homicides** but especially those that are non-domestic and among those victims aged under 25 involving knives

As previously highlighted, these measures **do not reflect our local profile** of violence and do not align to a prevention approach. A further consideration for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is that the numbers for these measures at local level are **too low to provide a meaningful measure** of impact or change.

Safer Cornwall monitor some broader **violent crime measures** as part of our overarching performance framework. These include:

- Violence with injury
- Sexual offences
- Domestic abuse crimes
- Youth Justice Service measures

We have committed to developing our prevention approach to serious violence following the principles of Human Learning Systems.<sup>10</sup>

A systems approach creates an **effective learning environment** that supports people to **explore and**

**learn together** – through testing different ways of working, gathering data, reflecting on what has worked well and what we could do better and adapting our plans accordingly.

Our successes will include **capturing learning and feedback** in ways that can be used to **make change**.

Progress towards our vision will be seen over the **longer term**.

**Patterns and trends in violent behaviours** in our communities will be observed, analysed and reported on an ongoing basis – using a broad **range of data and insight** alongside police recorded crime.

To demonstrate progress towards our intermediate outcomes, we will **agree a local framework jointly with delivery partners** that reflects the priority areas in the Strategic Framework.

This is likely to include the following local indicators:

- **Reductions in school suspensions** and persistent absence
- **Improved feelings of safety and belonging** – in school and the wider community
- **Project-specific outcomes** around engagement and successes, including gathering insight from personal stories and experiences
- Shared **tools and processes**
- **System optimisation** outcomes

This will be developed in 2024/25 and published at the end of the year.

<sup>10</sup> [Human Learning Systems](#)



## Partnership structure and governance

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were first mandated under the **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**<sup>11</sup> to bring partners together to improve community safety and reduce crime in local areas.

**Safer Cornwall** is Cornwall’s CSP. **Safer Scilly** works alongside Safer Cornwall but is an independent unitary authority.

As well as ensuring that we meet the requirements of the **Crime and Disorder Act**, in Cornwall, the CSP has taken on extra responsibilities.

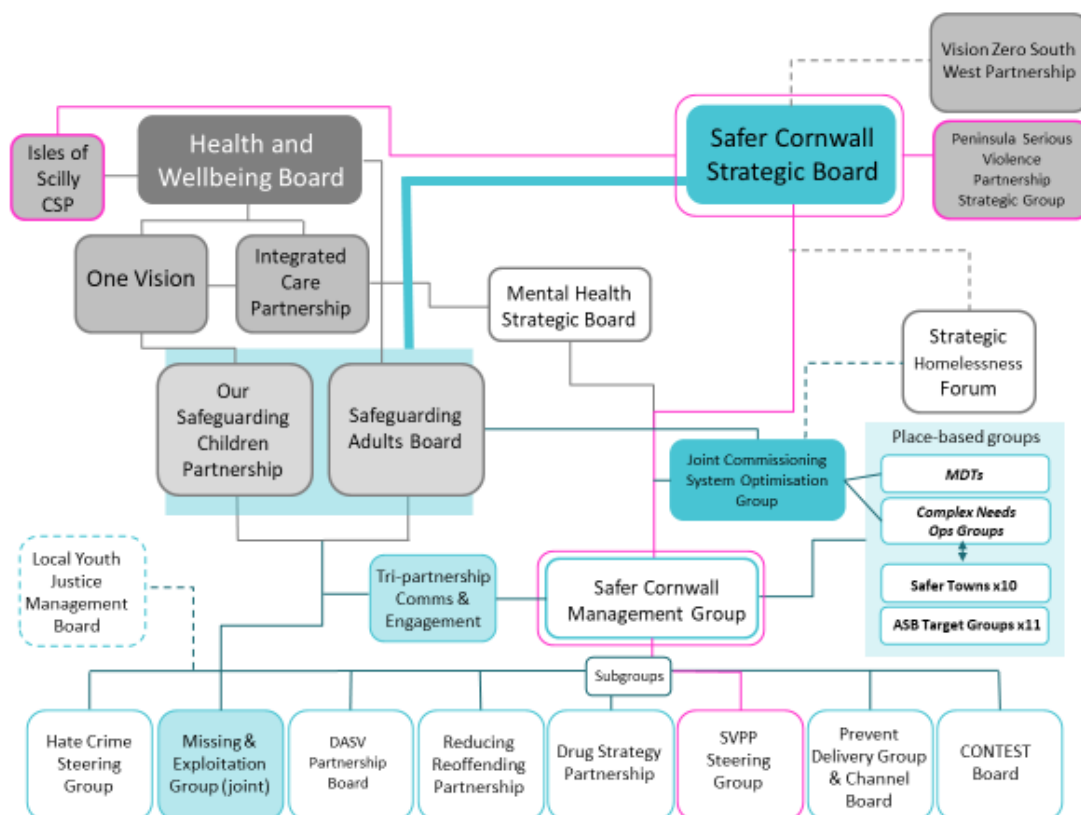
Safer Cornwall provides oversight and governance for the [Serious Violence Duty](#), the delivery of the government’s [10-year drugs strategy](#) and safe accommodation duties under the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#).

The CSP is made up of **five responsible authorities** – Police, Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Integrated Care Board and Probation Service – working with a **broad range of other partners**.

The Serious Violence Duty adds the **Youth Justice Service** as a specified authority.

For a full list of members see our [Constitution and Terms of Reference](#).

Safer Cornwall works alongside all the strategic partnerships in Cornwall but **works particularly closely with the two safeguarding partnerships** for adults and children, recognising the cross-cutting nature of our work. We also share key objectives with the **Health and Wellbeing Board**.



11 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, amended by Police Reform Act 2002, Clean

Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Police and Justice Act 2006.

**Safer Cornwall is accountable** to the Home Office if it is not fulfilling its duties as a CSP. Cornwall Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee provide local scrutiny<sup>12</sup>.

Safer Cornwall also works closely with all the **neighbouring community safety partnerships** across the Peninsula. This includes producing a **joint community safety strategic assessment** each year, to identify opportunities for collaboration and shared learning.

### Serious Violence Duty

There are **additional arrangements in place for the Serious Violence Duty**, to take into account the ‘convening’ role that Police and Crime Commissioners have been asked to undertake.

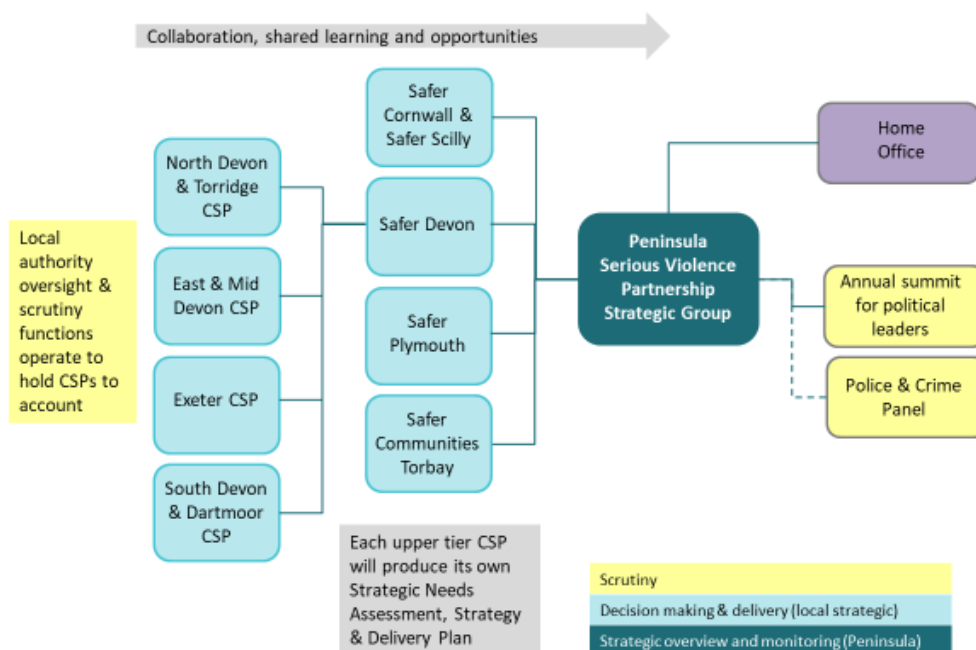
The **delivery and decision-making** associated with core elements of the Duty are met through the upper-tier CSPs, allowing existing partnerships to tailor their response to serious violence to meet local need.

This includes decision making about associated funding and ensuring that **all specified authorities are actively participating** in local delivery of the Duty.

The **Peninsula Serious Violence Prevention Strategic Group** will provide strategic overview and monitoring of the Duty at a Peninsula level.

This group will bring together representatives from across the Peninsula to ensure that the strategic approach is **sustainable**, and **evidence based**, and delivers the outcomes required to **meet the needs of communities across the whole footprint**.

They will also **identify and enable collaboration opportunities** and support **innovation** and evidence-based practice. The group acts as a **co-ordination point for CSPs** and liaises with the Home Office.



12 Police and Justice Act 2006. The [Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny](#)

[Committee](#) is the designated crime and disorder committee in Cornwall Council





# SAFER CORNWALL



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If you would like this information in another format, please contact:  
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