**soLUtIONS COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

**SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2016-2020**

**INTRODUCTION**
This Strategy outlines the Community Safety Partnership’s approach to addressing Serious Youth Violence in Luton. It is supported by a Partnership plan which will be regularly reviewed and revised over the duration of this strategy and which will detail specific activity and actions to be taken to deliver the strategy. The plan will also detail the specific performance measures the Partnership will monitor in order to assess the effectiveness and impact of the strategy.

**DEFINITION**
For the purpose of this strategy the Partnership have adopted the following definition:
“Serious Youth Violence is behaviour involving the most serious violence; murder, attempted murder, GBH, death by dangerous driving, death by aggravated vehicle taking, any assault with injury, any weapon causing death or any sexual offence; that occurs within a gang related context and where the perpetrator or victim is under 25 years of age.”

**UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES**
As a Partnership, collaborative working must be our defining feature not just in relation to our statutory partners but also with respect to communities and residents throughout its implementation and delivery.

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**PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION**
We will adopt a tiered approach to preventing involvement with Serious Youth Violence and to create opportunities for those involved to exit.

**We Will:**
- Be pro-active about identifying individuals involved in or at risk of involvement in Serious Youth Violence and provide targeted support and interventions to reduce the risk of offending or re-offending.
- Develop and support effective interventions to support routes out of Serious Youth Violence and ensure clear referral pathways are in place to ensure those in most need have access to these services.
- Work to improve outcomes and opportunities for children and young people at risk of Serious Youth Violence by creating employment and training opportunities and ensuring all children in Luton have access to high quality education provision.

**Success will mean:**
- Increases in the number of individuals engaging in interventions.
- Reductions in the frequency and severity of Serious Youth Violence incidents.

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**PURSUE AND ENFORCE**
We will work collaboratively with our partners and communities to identify and take action against those involved in Serious Youth Violence.

**We Will:**
- Make effective use of all tools and powers available across the Partnership to take action against individuals involved in Serious Youth Violence.
- Ensure effective information sharing and joint working to identify those involved and maintain an accurate profile of Serious Youth Violence within the town to enable targeted, evidenced based activity and interventions.
- Build trust and positive relationships with local communities to encourage reporting and disclosures relating to Serious Youth Violence, contributing to stronger evidence and prosecution of those involved.

**Success will mean:**
- Increase in action taken against those causing harm to others.
- Increase in the number of individuals exiting offending behaviour.

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**PROTECT AND SUPPORT**
We will seek to protect individuals and communities from the impact of Serious Youth Violence including the fear of violence.

**We Will:**
- Proactively seek to identify individuals at risk of harm related to Serious Youth Violence including exploitation, intimidation and abuse.
- Provide high quality support to victims and witnesses of Serious Youth Violence to reduce its impact.
- Undertake targeted activity and interventions including covert police activity to tackle and reduce drugs, knife and gun crime in affected areas.

**Success will mean:**
- A reduction in the fear and impact of SYV related crime.
- Increase in disclosures and information provided by residents and communities.

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**PREPARE AND PROMOTE**
We will work to ensure partners, professionals and our communities are informed and equipped to make an effective contribution to reducing Serious Youth Violence.

**We Will:**
- Raise awareness of the impact and consequences of Serious Youth Violence both for individuals, their families and the wider community.
- Ensure professionals and practitioners in the statutory, voluntary and community sector are provided with relevant training and/or information about Serious Youth Violence to enable improved and earlier identification of victims and those involved or at risk.
- Work with, and provide support to communities to counteract the impact of Serious Youth Violence in local areas and champion the positive contributions to our town made by children and young adults.

**Success will mean:**
- Greater professional awareness leading to increase in individuals identified and referred for support.
- Increased engagement with the SYV agenda by agencies, schools and communities.

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As such we commit to engaging with local people, particularly those living in communities affected by Serious Youth Violence, not just in the development of this strategy but

**LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES**
Serious Youth Violence is both affected by and impacts on a wide range of factors and issues which no single strategy or group can seek to address. Consequently this strategy must be considered within the context of wider activity of the Partnership, its constituent agencies and the work of other local Strategic Boards, notably the:
- Luton Safeguarding Adults Board
- Luton Safeguarding Children Board
- Luton Health and Wellbeing Board.

**GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY**
Governance of the local Partnership response to Serious Youth Violence resides with the Luton Community Safety Partnership Executive, with additional oversight and support provided by the Strategic Boards identified above. Delivery of the plan will be undertaken by the Partnership Delivery Board and related sub-groups with specific reference to voluntary and community groups to ensure that the views of local residents and communities remain central to the Partnership’s approach.