



Buckinghamshire Serious Violence Response Strategy **2024/27**



**Buckinghamshire
Council**



SAFER
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Partnership

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Foreword

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the victims, their families, the community, and County as a whole. It instils fear, affects wellbeing, and comes at a financial cost. Adverse childhood experiences including traumatic experiences in childhood can have a lasting effect and cause vulnerability later in life to serious violence issues. Nationally, incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014.

Within Buckinghamshire we are committed to stopping serious violence before it begins and reducing the impact and the number of people affected by serious violence issues. Tackling the drivers of serious violence requires a combined effort with our partners and our communities. We need to properly understand the issues and address risk factors that increase the likelihood of somebody becoming an offender or victim. Prevention is central to our approach.

This strategy and the delivery plan that will support it focus on the importance of early intervention in order to provide young people with the skills to lead productive lives free from violence. Buckinghamshire Council is determined to end the misery serious violence can cause. We will work with our partners to achieve sustainable reductions in serious violence and improve the health and quality of life of those who live, work, and visit Buckinghamshire.



Cllr Arif Hussain

Cabinet Member for Communities



Craig McArdle

Corporate Director – Adults and Health
Buckinghamshire Council

Introduction

We are pleased to introduce the Serious Violence Response Strategy 2024-2027 which sets out our priorities for the next three years with the goal of reducing and preventing serious violence. The priorities within this Strategy have been informed by an in-depth analysis of data from a range of Buckinghamshire partner organisations.

Our 2024-2027 priorities are:

- Awareness raising of serious violence.
- Early intervention.
- Embed the Serious Violence Duty.
- Supporting those released from Custody.
- Partnership response to those most vulnerable to serious violence.

To achieve these goals, we will work in partnership with our statutory and voluntary/community partners, along with engaging with the local community.

Our Victim Focused Approach

In Buckinghamshire many different services, both statutory and voluntary (for example Thames Valley Victim First Service), work to support families and individuals affected by serious violence. These services engage with the diverse and complex nature of serious violence and collaborate to support in a 'trauma informed way' victims, families and perpetrators affected by serious violence issues. The Buckinghamshire Serious Violence Strategy will aim to strengthen, enhance and coordinate our responses.

What is Serious Violence?

Within Buckinghamshire we have adopted the definition of serious violence as agreed by Community Safety Managers across the Thames Valley:

'Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.'

Whilst Domestic Abuse related offences account for a large proportion of serious violence offences, they are not dealt with under this strategy. There is a separate Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24, which delivers the Council's statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

National context

Serious violence is a national priority due to its growing prevalence and impact. The Office of National Statistics report, based on the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) which looked at the nature of violent crime (year ending March 2022), provided the following overview of the extent of violent crime:

- The TCSEW estimated that 1.9% of adults aged 18 years and over were a victim of violent crime in the year ending March 2022, equating to 1.5 million incidents of violence.
- The police recorded 2.1 million instances of violence against the person offences in the year ending March 2022, an increase of 18% from 1.8 million in the year ending March 2021.
- Police recorded crime showed that the number of homicides in the year ending March 2022 increased by 25% to 709 offences compared with the year ending March 2021.
- There was also a 10% increase in the number of police recorded offences involving knife-enabled crime in the year ending March 2022 (48,931 offences) compared with the year ending March 2021; this remains lower than the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020 (55,076 offences).
- There was no change in the number of hospital admissions for assault with sharp objects in the year ending March 2022 (4,118 admissions) compared with the year ending March 2021 (4,112 admissions); this remains lower than the year ending March 2020 (4,769 admissions).

Government's Serious Violence Strategy 2018

This Strategy set out the need for pairing effective law enforcement with a need for early intervention/diversionary support for those most vulnerable to being drawn into violence, drugs, and exploitation. It describes the need to identify and address the root cause of violence, especially in young people. The Strategy encourages a whole-system, public health approach; ensuring that both statutory and community/voluntary partners work collaboratively and closely with the community.

The Serious Violence Duty

To assist in reducing and preventing serious violence in 2019 the Government announced legislation which introduced a new Serious Violence Duty. This Duty gave responsibility to a range of specified authorities to work together to share information/data and target interventions to reduce and prevent serious violence within their communities.

The Duty requires the following specified authorities to adopt a public health approach and work collaboratively to reduce and prevent serious violence:

- Police**
- Justice**
- Fire and Rescue**
- Health**
- Local Authority**
- Probation**

Other agencies, such as Education and Prisons also need to be consulted to ensure a full partnership approach.

The Government also announced an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships and ensure they have a Serious Violence Strategy in place.

The Serious Violence Duty also requires a Strategic Needs Assessment to be completed to understand crime trends in the area and identify cohorts most vulnerable to serious violence.

Violence Reduction Units

In 2019 the Home Office established 20 Violence Reduction Units (VRU) across the areas with the highest levels of serious violence, one of which was the Thames Valley. The VRU assists in strategic leadership, coordination of work, delivery, and evaluation of local interventions and to support the building of capacity and future sustainability.



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) oversees compliance with the delivery of the Serious Violence Duty, ensures funding is received by the Home Office and is allocated following collaboration with partnerships, including the Community Safety Partnerships, across the Thames Valley.

What have we done in the last 3 years

In line with the Government's Serious Violence Strategy, the themes of the previous Buckinghamshire Serious Violence Strategy were:

Early Intervention and Prevention

Supporting Communities

Effective Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Response

Over the past 3 years significant work has been undertaken on these three themes. This has been achieved through collaborative and co-production work with statutory, community and voluntary partners, supporting the delivery of projects along with supporting young people who require diversion away from serious violence and organised crime.

During the last 3 years we have:



Created and recruited a Serious Violence Reduction Coordinator to assist in ensuring that the local authority and statutory partners (Police, Justice, Fire and Rescue and Health) are aware of the Serious Violence Duty and their responsibilities.

Established a Serious Violence Task Force to oversee the delivery of the Buckinghamshire Violence Reduction Plan.



Supported the VRU pilot project 'Hospital Navigator Scheme'. This project was launched in Stoke Mandeville

Hospital and placed a Navigator within A&E to contact any patient who attended and looked to be either a perpetrator or victim of serious violence. The Navigator worker offers further support and signposts victims to appropriate agencies where required.

Promoted VRU funded projects and identified and funded other third sector intervention providers, recommending them to professionals working with young people who are at risk of school exclusion and/or involved in the criminal justice system or vulnerable to exploitation.



Created a 'Menu' of Intervention Providers and Diversionary activities across Buckinghamshire to assist with diverting young people away from serious violence.

Supported the VRU funded multi-agency project 'Intensive Engagement' where they collaborated to deliver an 8 step 'Community Engagement and Problem Solving' model within the Castlefield area of High Wycombe.

Provided over
£200,000

of Community Safety funding in 2022-2024 period, in collaboration with 'Heart of Bucks' a third sector funding specialist to Community Intervention and Diversionary activity providers to support community safety initiatives.



Worked with key partner agencies,

YOS, NHS, VRU and third sector organisations to safeguard and support young people and adults vulnerable to or involved in serious violence issues.



Organised and held regular training with partner agencies regarding the Serious Violence Duty and on the information sharing process with the Police and partner agencies.



Utilised social media platforms

and included articles within the Community Safety newsletter in relation to serious violence issues and violence against women and girls.

Supported Thames Valley Police, Trading Standards, Licensing, Housing and Environmental Health in operational issues

location based problem-solving serious violence issues and community reassurance.



Worked with Education, Schools and Colleges to support vulnerable young people with youth workers, third

sector intervention provider support and counter narrative inputs and projects.

Thames Valley Together (TVT) data project

The TVT project is an innovative piece of work spearheaded by the Thames Valley Police VRU and is fully supported by Buckinghamshire Council. The aim of this project is to utilise data to understand the threat, risk and harm issues at a location, population, and individual personal level within the Buckinghamshire area. This project is currently within the test phase and is pulling together data from a variety of council departments and multi-agency sources. The operational system for end users is expected to go live at some point in 2024 and will provide various analytical products, risk stratification and risk identification, impact, and outcome evaluation, along with assistance with planning for demand and location based 'hot spots' information.

It is also recognised that across our Partnerships, connectivity and collating relevant meaningful data can be a challenge. We will prioritise improving efficiency and processes to enhance the value of utilising shared data.

Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

The Serious Violence Duty set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 includes a requirement for local partnerships to complete a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to understand how violence is affecting their communities and to help them develop a response strategy.

The Buckinghamshire serious violence SNA has a specific focus on violence-related needs within a local area. Through detailed analysis the SNA has assisted with identifying trends and cohorts/ locations most vulnerable to serious violence in order to shape and support the development of this strategy, along with the delivery plan.

The data used in the serious violence SNA has been provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) covers the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2023 and is taken from the Thames Valley Police crime recording system.

Buckinghamshire has lower crime rates than England and the South East across all crime types, however, violence and sexual offences crime rates are increasing nationally, and this increase is also reflected in Buckinghamshire.

In 2022-23, the violence with injury crime rate (number of crimes per 1000 population) in Buckinghamshire (6.0) was lower than Thames Valley (7.1), the South East (8.5) and England (9.6). Violent crime and violence with injury are high-level crime types, some offences of which will be considered serious violence; serious violence is a subset of the wider crime types of violence against the person, sexual offences, and drug offences.

In line with the definition of the Serious Violence Definition from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, the serious violence needs assessment looks at all data from Groups 1 and 2, as detailed below:

Group 1

- All homicide
- All grievous bodily harm
- All knife crime (as collected for Home Office recording) inclusive of all ages, location type (public / private) and domestic abuse.

Group 2

- All actual bodily harm (thus excluding 'other' violence with injury e.g common assault)
- All drug supply / trafficking (thus excluding possession alone)
- All sexual assault (thus excluding sexual activity and 'other' sexual offences)
- All rape

Please note that Group 1 will include crime types from Group 2 if a knife is involved (except for drug supply offences).

Summary of SNA fundings

Serious violence in Buckinghamshire has broadly remained the same over the last 5 years, except for a notable drop in 2020/21, which can be attributed to Covid restrictions, and has relatively low levels of crime when compared to neighbouring areas within Thames Valley, the South East and England.

⬇️ **There were 1,676 Group 1 serious violence crimes** in Buckinghamshire during the 5-year period 2018-2023 – occurrences have fallen 24% during this time.

⬆️ **The highest volume Group 1 serious violence crimes between 2018-2023 were:**

- Grievous Bodily Harm (37% - 624 offences)
- Actual Bodily Harm (30% - 495 offences)
- Robbery (24% - 398 offences)

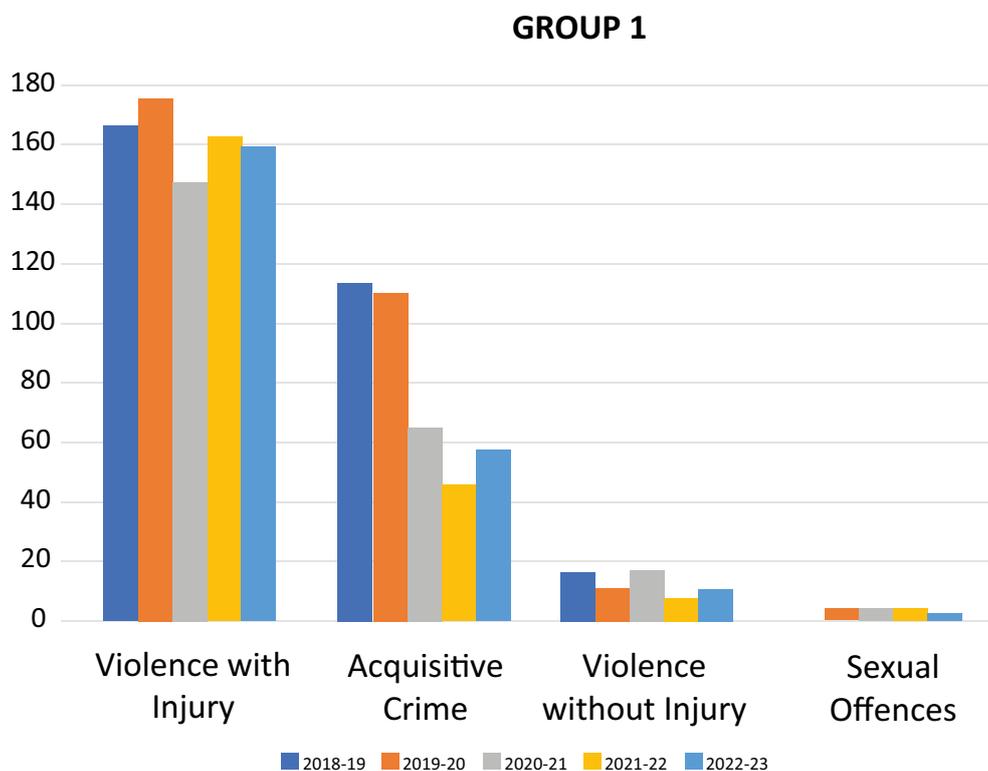
⬇️ **Robbery had the biggest 5-year change – down 49% between 2018-2023**

⊕ **74% of group 1 serious violence crimes involved a knife – this proportion has remained relatively unchanged over the last 5 years.**

⬆️ **There were 17,629 Group 2 serious violence crimes** in Buckinghamshire during the 5-year period 2018-2023 – occurrences have increased 8% during this time.

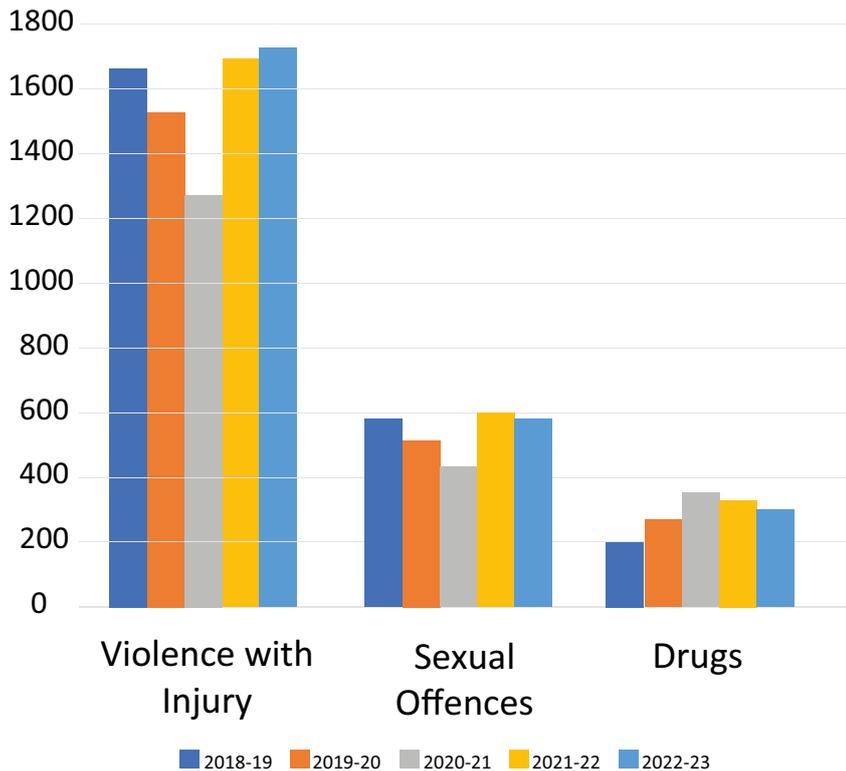
⬆️ **70% (12,365) of Group 2 serious violence crime between 2018-2023 are Actual Bodily Harm offences**

⬆️ **Drug Supply offences had the biggest 5-year change – increasing 44% between 2018-2023**



- Serious violence crimes in group 1 remain broadly unchanged in terms of volume, although unlike domestic abuse there is a clear impact of Covid, where the pandemic restrictions reduced the volume of crimes (in line with national trends) with the exception of drug supply offences.
- Acquisitive crime in group 1 consists solely of robbery involving a knife. This volume has fallen significantly, initially in response to Covid but the volume has not returned post-restrictions.
- Violence without injury (consisting solely of 'threats to kill') and sexual offences in group 1 have seen minor fluctuations, but these equate to no-change overall.

GROUP 2

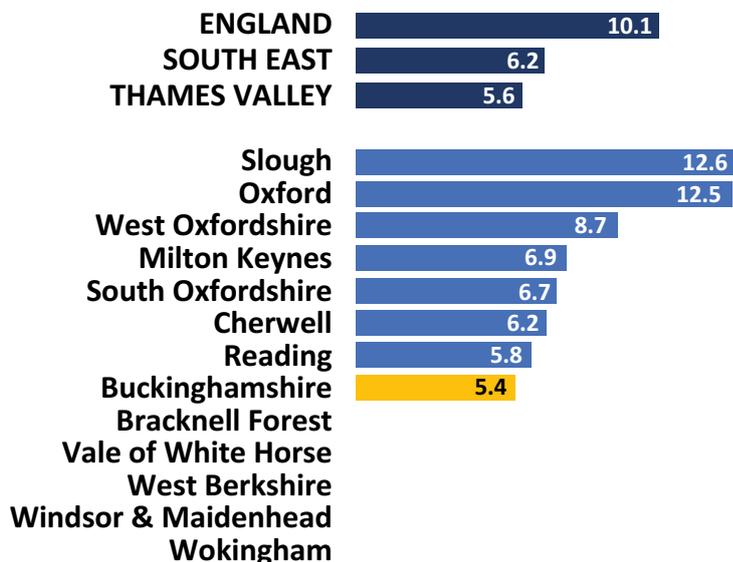


- Serious violence crimes in group 2 are far higher in volume than group 1. There has been a slight increase in the volume of violence with injury offences, although not sufficient to impact the overall crime rate. The increases are not evenly spread geographically with some areas seeing notable increases.
- Sexual offences have remained at a similar level.
- Drug supply offences increased significantly during Covid, partly due to perpetrators being very evident during lockdown periods, and partly due to additional Police focus.

Homicide

- In Buckinghamshire there were 12 homicides between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2023. Of these, 5 offences involved a knife (42%), and 2 offences were domestic abuse related homicides (1 involved a knife).
- In the last three years, the rate of homicide in England and Wales has been highest in London, with an average of 15.1 offences per million population a year, followed by the West Midlands. Rates are lowest in the South East and South West of England.
- The chart below shows the homicide rates per 1,000,000 population for areas within the Thames Valley for the 2022-23 financial year. Five areas did not have recorded homicide offences in the period (and therefore have a crime rate of 0.0), of the remaining eight areas, Buckinghamshire had the lowest homicide rate.

Homicide crime offences 2022-23 per 1,000,000 population



Please note: for homicide, a rate per million population is used due to the low number of offences.

Sexual Offences

- Buckinghamshire has a relatively low crime rate of reported sexual offences when compared to neighbouring areas within the Thames Valley. However, our reported sexual offences are increasing.
- The Office of National Statistics reports the volume of sexual offences recorded by the police has been increasing over the last decade. However, the impact of high-profile incidents, media coverage, and campaigns is likely to increase people's willingness to report both recent and historical offences to the police. It is therefore possible that some of the increase in volume of offences reflects an increase in reporting. (Recent data published by Rape Crisis of England and Wales shows the reporting of offences remains low '5 in 6 women who are raped don't report – and the same is true for 4 in 5 men').
- Looking at sexual offences that fall within serious violence (a subset of all sexual offences), 2,783 sexual offences (excluding domestic abuse) were reported between 2018 and 2023.
- Of the sexual offences that occurred within our 5-year reporting period there has been a 43% increase in reported rape offences and a 36% increase in reported sexual assaults. Whilst this could be seen as a worrying trend, due to previous low reporting of sexual offences this increase may indicate an increase in confidence to report an incident.

Where is serious violence happening?

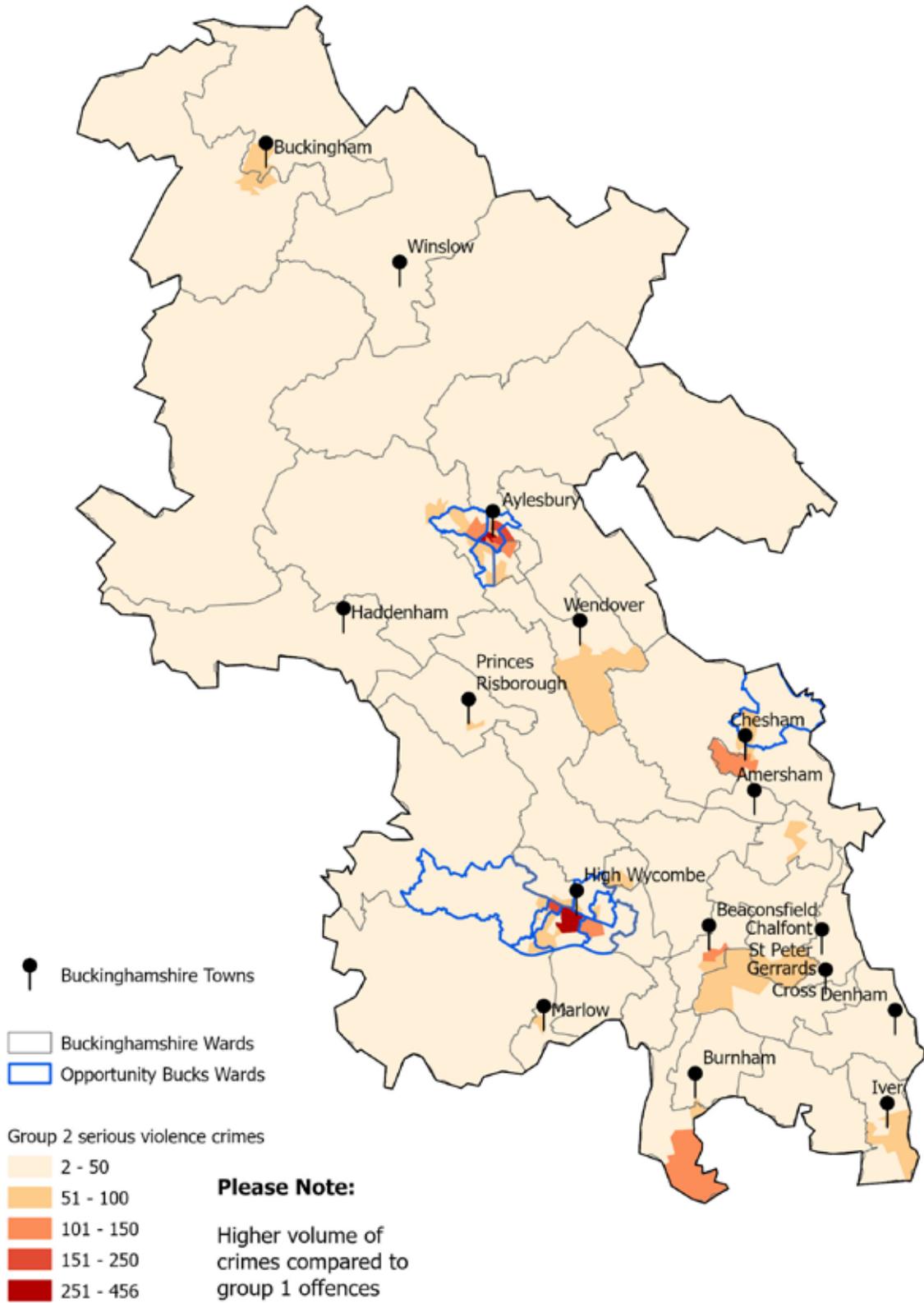
The following two maps (shown on pages 13 and 14) show where group 1 crimes and group 2 crimes have occurred over the last 5 years.

The areas with the highest levels of group 1 serious violence offences are consistent with those areas with the highest levels of group 2 serious violence offences, suggesting the two groups are simply an extension of each other rather than distinctly different issues.

The highest numbers of crimes are around the town centres and are often located in Buckinghamshire's more deprived wards. The numbers are too small to present as crime rates, so the map represents actual numbers of crimes. It is therefore important to recognise that the more populated areas will have higher numbers of offences.

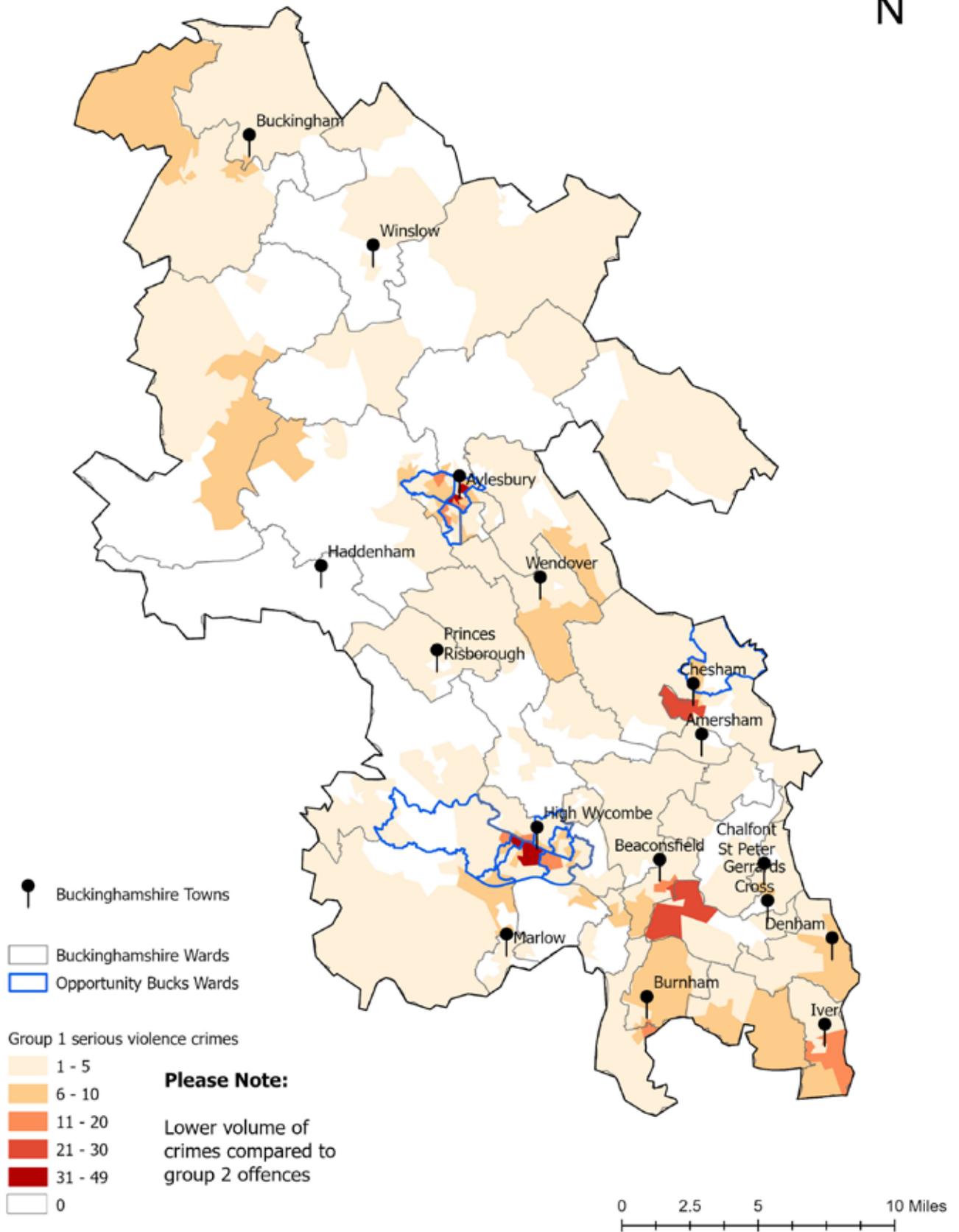
Please note - when considering these maps, the group 1 scale (in terms of shading) relates to a much smaller volume of offences.

Group 2 Serious Violence; distribution of crimes between 2018 and 2023



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Group 1 Serious Violence; distribution of crimes between 2018 and 2023



The following table shows the 10 wards with the highest total offences due to all group 1 violence with injury, knife crime and drug supply offences. All of these are Opportunity Bucks wards except for Downley. The only Opportunity Bucks ward not represented is Totteridge and Bowerdean. Care must be taken when looking at the percentage change over the last 5 years due to lower total crimes.

Buckinghamshire Ward	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	5 year total	5 year change
Aylesbury North	56	46	46	64	41	253	-27%
Abbey	47	38	42	38	37	202	-21%
Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	37	36	39	25	48	185	30%
Aylesbury North West	26	22	33	29	24	134	-8%
Ryemead and Micklefield	23	17	15	25	20	100	-13%
Aylesbury South West	23	33	19	14	9	98	-61%
Downley	17	26	15	21	16	95	-6%
Terriers and Amersham Hill	12	19	20	21	17	89	42%
West Wycombe	16	7	21	17	12	73	-25%
Chesham	8	29	17	14	4	72	-50%

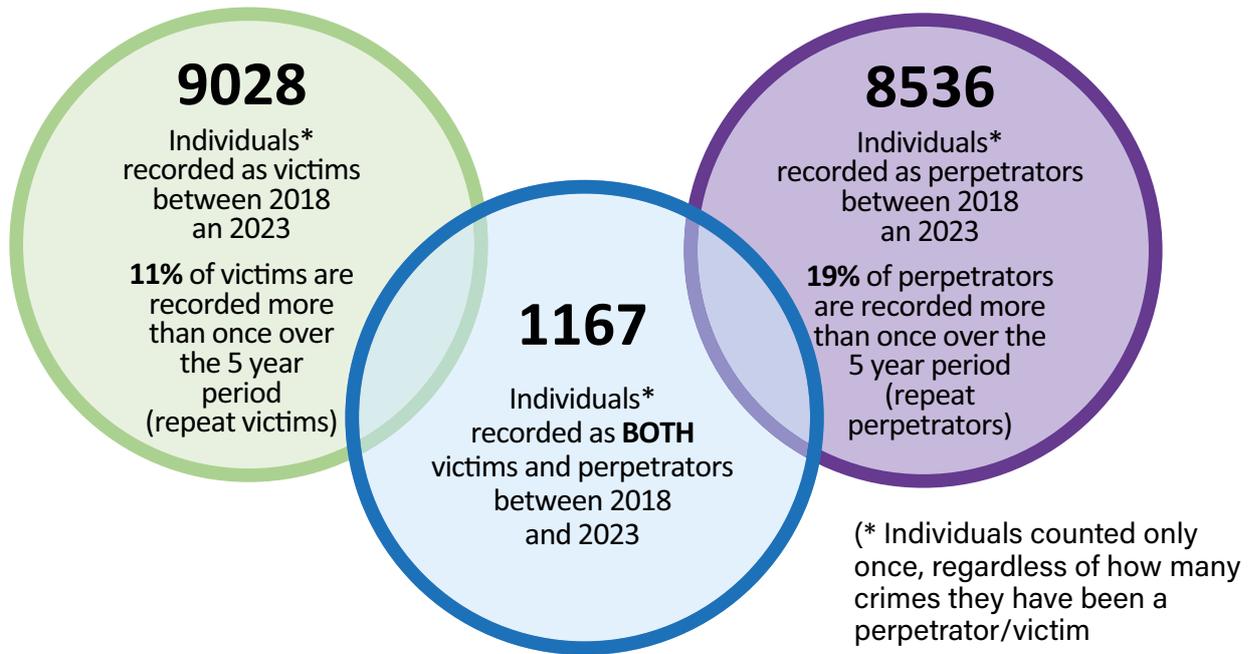
Of these ten wards:

- **Booker, Cressex and Castlefield** – drug supply offences account for most of the increase*
- **Aylesbury North West** – although overall crimes saw a decrease between 2018 and 2023, violence with injury offences have doubled
- **Ryemead and Micklefield** – drug supply offences have doubled*
- **Terriers and Amersham Hill** – drug supply offences account for most of the increase*

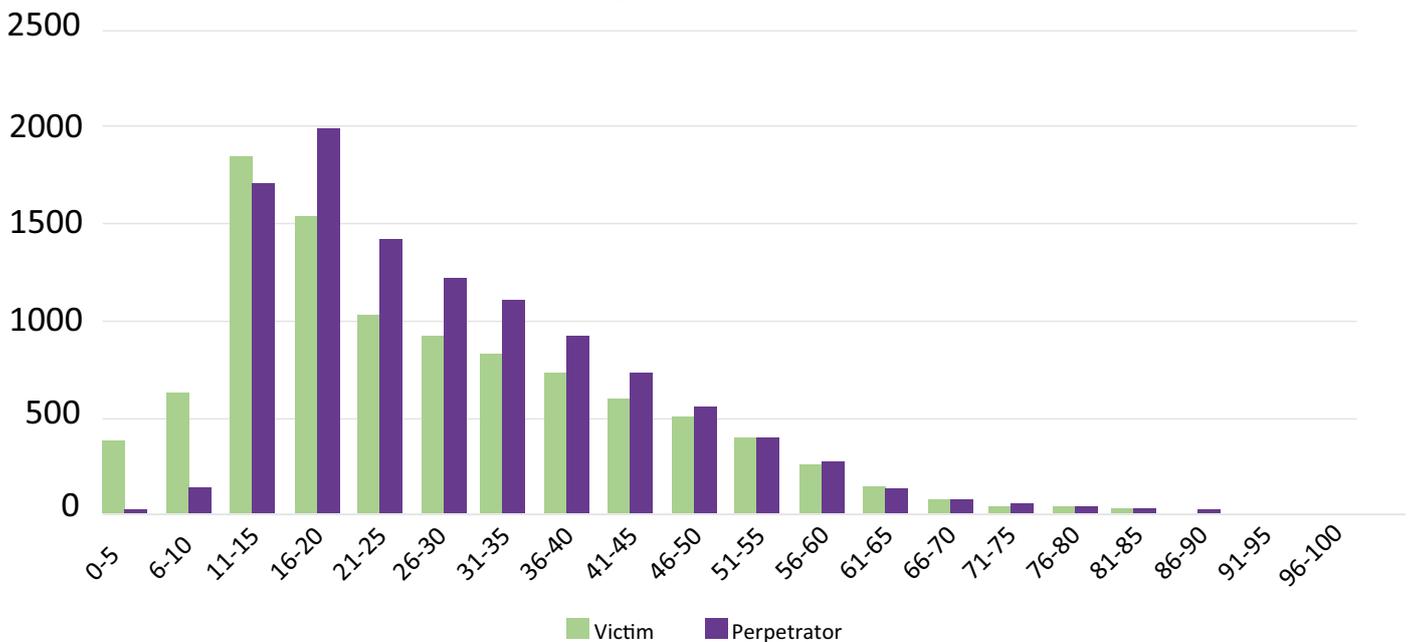
All other wards saw a fall in each of the crime category groups or remained fairly consistent at the start and end of the 5-year period.

** These wards reflect that drug supply offences are an increasing problem outside of town centres (where we typically see high volumes of serious violence offences) and are affecting residential areas.)*

What do we know about those involved in serious violence?

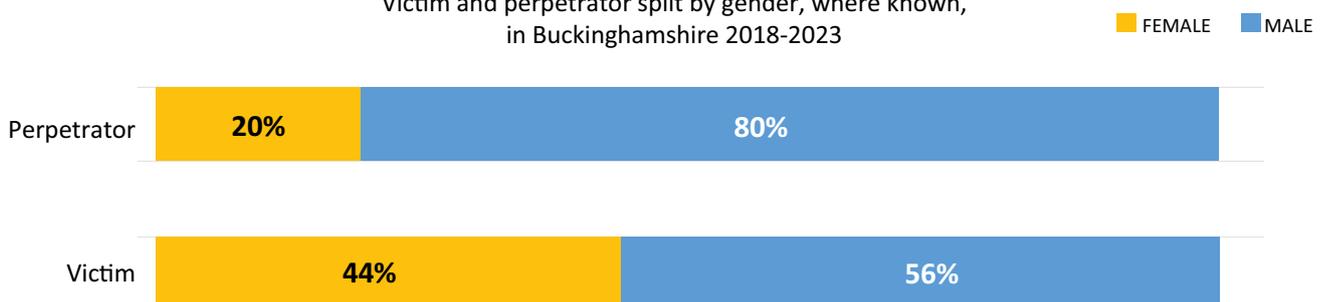


Age profile of all victims and perpetrators involved in serious violence in Buckinghamshire 2018-2023



The highest volume of serious violence crimes are committed by and against 11-25 year olds. **44%** of victims and **47%** of suspects are in this age range. This has remained unchanged during the 5-year period. The 11-15 age group has the highest number of victims (**18%** of all victims), whereas the 16-20 age group has the highest number of perpetrators (**18%** of all perpetrators).

Victim and perpetrator split by gender, where known, in Buckinghamshire 2018-2023



Males make up more than half the victims of serious violent crime, and account for **80%** of the suspected perpetrators.



Age groups between 11-20 years have the highest number of male and female victims.



Females make up **44%** of all victims and account for more than **50%** of victims aged 15 and under. **85%** of sexual offence victims are female.



There has been little change over the 5-year period in either the age or gender of victims.



There is insufficient data to comment on the ethnicity of serious violence victims.



81% of knife crime victims are male.



Age group 11 - 15 years has the highest number of female perpetrators, age group 16 - 20 years has the highest number of male perpetrators.



Females make up **19.5%** of all perpetrators and make up **24%** of the 11 - 15 years perpetrator age group. Violence with injury offences have the highest proportion of female perpetrators (**26%**).



There has been little change over the 5-year period in either the age or gender of perpetrators.



There is insufficient data to comment on the ethnicity of serious violence perpetrators.



92% of knife crime perpetrators are male.

Aims and Priorities

Our aim is to prevent and reduce serious violence across Buckinghamshire. We will achieve this by tackling the drivers of serious violence, assessing data, delivering training, sourcing, and funding early intervention work, working collaboratively with partner agencies and evaluating the impact of our work to ensure resources are being used most effectively.

Consultation

As set out in the Serious Violence Duty, the below statutory agencies were consulted via face-to-face discussions as well as a survey:

- Thames Valley Police**
- Education**
- The Probation Service**
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service**
- Local Prisons**
- Youth Offending Service**
- Public Health**

The responses obtained have assisted in ensuring our priorities align with their organisation and will assist in creating a serious violence reduction delivery plan to ensure the 2024-27 Serious Violence priorities are delivered effectively.

Youth Voice

Along with obtaining the views of key partners organisations, it is important to also include the views of the young people we are aiming to work with and to also support and encourage the development and creation by young people of a counter narrative to serious violence issues.

Assisting with the national youth view around serious violence; causes and prevention, the VRU and Crest Advisory (commissioned by the Youth Endowment fund) both published research on the subject.

Both papers found similar insights around the causes and prevention of serious violence which were:

Causes

- A need to belong, to be understood and to be someone.
- Money needs to be made.
- Violence often comes as a package with drugs and gangs due to rivalries, disputes, debts.
- Gangs can appear to provide security and connections and can be joined because of issues at home, family break downs, insecure housing and having parents with mental health difficulties.
- Knife carrying is seen as a form of a protective response due to feeling unsafe.
- Knife carrying is sometimes accepted as commonplace behaviour amongst a peer group.

Prevention

- Having a structured/stable space to be (physically) and a space to belong (emotionally) to assist in building a positive self-image.
- Having someone who can be trusted and who understands (healthy relationships, support services, community ties, positive role models)
- Having the chance to learn and achieve something (education/employment)
- Mechanisms to understand how to self-regulate emotions and communicate effectively.

Assisting with the local youth view around the causes and prevention of serious violence, we utilised the Bucks Youth Summit which pulled together students of various ages and from various schools across the area to facilitate discussions around violence issues.

Views around causes of serious violence mirrored those found nationally with the addition of the below:

- External environment - geographical area, external influences, school, attitude towards others.
- Trauma - lived experience, death, bullies, isolation, mental health, experience of hate crime.
- Substances.
- Money - lack of, options to access, greed, cost of living, attitude towards how to make it.
- Social media - pressure of maintaining an online life in real life.
- Peer pressure and fitting in - trends, influence of others, imitation, social skills, reputation.
- Gratification and getting away with it - adrenaline, reward greater than risk, small punishment, no consequences.

Views around prevention of serious violence mirrored those found nationally with the addition of the below:

- Investing in services
- Developing reporting systems
- Improving police relations
- Investing in crime prevention infrastructure and systems
- Clarifying and developing consequences
- Early intervention

Buckinghamshire Council recognises the importance of listening to youth voices and developing a counter-narrative around serious violence through relevant projects.

Our Serious Violence priorities over the next three years:

Through the analysis of the Strategic Needs Assessment and the consultation findings, the following priorities have been agreed:



Priority 1 - Raise awareness

Raise awareness of serious violence through communication, education and training; so that professionals and those in our communities can recognise signs, how to report their concerns and make referrals to other agencies (as appropriate).

It is important that professionals can recognise the signs of serious violence and know how to react accordingly. We will:

- Utilise social media and partner communications to raise awareness of serious violence and its drivers.
- Work with the Voluntary and Community Sector and youth agencies to deliver counter-narrative projects to young people.
- Develop a variety of training materials for Professionals.
- Explore utilising the Thames Valley Together project dashboard to make interagency referrals.



Priority 2 - Support early intervention

Support early intervention for vulnerable young people and those becoming at risk.

- It is important to recognise when a person is showing signs of vulnerability to being drawn into this behaviour and to put interventions in place to support and divert them onto a more positive path. Our commitments within this priority include:
- Work with partners to ensure a wide range of support is available for those at risk.
- Ensure appropriate response to disclosures made by young people.
- Identify interventions for young people.
- Identify and support funding opportunities for organisations who provide support to vulnerable young people.



Priority 3 - Embed Serious Violence Duty

Develop awareness of, and embed, the Serious Violence Agenda and Duty requirements amongst the partnership.

Since the announcement of the new Serious Violence Duty, there has been a strong effort to develop awareness amongst both statutory and community/voluntary organisations. This has included outlining the expectations and requirements for statutory organisations, and this work will continue through this Strategy. Our commitments within this priority include:

- Identify training opportunities and deliver to a wide audience.
- Measure the impact of the training through evidencing outcome.



Priority 4 - Enhance appropriate support

Enhance appropriate support for those who are released from custody, who are most at risk of reoffending.

It is important to ensure that those who are being released from prison and police custody have the appropriate support to ensure they can reintegrate themselves in a positive way. Our commitments within this priority include:

- Develop stronger working relationships with local prisons.
- Working collaboratively with relevant agencies to ensure suitable support is provided.



Priority 5 - Undertake a proactive partnership

Undertake a proactive partnership response to cohorts and locations vulnerable to serious violence.

Cohorts and locations which are more susceptible to being drawn into serious violence will be identified through data and intelligence and will be responded to and mitigated accordingly. Our commitments within this priority include:

- Continue to implement the Hospital Navigator programme.
- Complete the multi-agency roll out of the Thames Valley Together (TVT) data project.
- Work collaboratively with Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.
- Utilising the TVT project dashboard to identify key locations and cohorts.
- Develop a multi-agency problem solving approach to hotspot locations of concern.

Serious Violence Delivery Plan

A multi-agency delivery plan will be produced to tackle these priorities, setting out clear measures so that we can track the impact of our actions.

The plan will seek to tackle each of the priorities by taking a public health approach and addressing the underlying factors to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. Activity will be focused on early intervention and serious violence location based 'hotspots' problem solving, whilst ensuring we minimise the fear of crime and increase public confidence.

The drivers and communities affected by serious violence are far reaching and features as a priority across other service and partnership strategies within Buckinghamshire. The landscape to tackling the drivers as well as the impact of serious violence is complex and addressing trauma, adversity and the root causes is a multi-agency response. It must be recognised that adverse childhood experiences can lead to trauma, so we will work together in partnership to address, treat and holistically support young people affected by trauma.

This strategy will also strongly align and connect to the Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, the Youth Justice Plan, and the work of the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership ensuring we complement, cross reference and co-produce rather than duplicate existing activity.

Accountability and Governance

The Safer Buckinghamshire Board will provide strategic oversight of the Serious Violence Response Strategy and will oversee its effectiveness and monitor progress. The Strategy is underpinned by a Delivery Plan that will be implemented by the Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Group.

Serious Violence Reduction Delivery Group

The Serious Violence Reduction (SVR) Delivery group will meet quarterly and is chaired by a representative from the Safer Buckinghamshire Board. Core membership of the SVR Delivery group is:

- Thames Valley Police**
- Youth Offending Service**
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service**
- The Probation Service**
- Buckinghamshire Council**

The SVR Delivery group will also work with a wide range of partners from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors; and other organisations will be invited to attend the SVR Delivery group meetings and will be involved in the implementation of the SV delivery Plan.

The SVR Delivery group will look at how actions within the plan are progressing, which may require reviewing and whether there are blockages to delivering actions which require escalation. Feedback from partner organisations will be vital to understanding the effectiveness of the plan. Updates on the Delivery plan will be provided at Safer Buckinghamshire Board meetings, setting out progress against identified outcomes.

An annual review of the SV Delivery Plan, along with serious violence crime statistics, will be undertaken to ensure the SVR Delivery group are tackling the key issues facing partner agencies and the community within Buckinghamshire. Quantitative evidence of work can prove difficult because of interventions often showing in the long term rather than the short term. Often, qualitative evidence is utilised in the form of case studies to evidence effectiveness. The SV Delivery Plan will be updated in line with the findings of this review and associated case studies.

Buckinghamshire Safer Buckinghamshire Partnership is committed to the principles of the 5 C's whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention.

- **Collaboration**
- **Co-production**
- **Co-operation in data and intelligence sharing**
- **Counter-narrative development**
- **Community consensus**

