

# PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN NAMED SPECIFIED AUTHORITIES

## WARWICKSHIRE SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

The following document sets out a partnership agreement between the Specified Authorities to meet the Serious Violence Duty as defined out in the Policing Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

The Serious Violence Duty requires Specified Authorities in a “local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area.

The Duty also requires the specified authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their strategy. These are referred to as Relevant Authorities

For the purpose of the Act, Specified Authorities are:-

- **Police** - Chief Officers of police for police areas in England and Wales
- **Justice** - Probation Services and Youth Offending Teams
- **Fire and rescue authorities** operating in England and Wales
- **Health** - Integrated Care Boards including Public Health
- **Local authorities** – District/Borough and County Councils

### Warwickshire definition of Serious Violence

The Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy 2022/27 set out the following definition of Serious Violence:-

*“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.”*

Our definition includes coercive and/or controlling behaviour and financial abuse which are part of the underlying causes of violence, as set out in this Strategy. This ensures our approach aligns with other key strategies which address other forms of violence, such as Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls.

### The Local Government Area

The local government area for the purposes of this agreement is defined as the County of Warwickshire, including the 5 District and Borough areas.

## Lead Authority

Whilst the Duty does not specify a 'lead' authority to be responsible for coordinating activity, Warwickshire County Council Community Safety Team (CST) will carry out the following functions on behalf of all of the Specified Authorities within in the area of Warwickshire.

**Serious Violence Duty Delivery Plan** – the CST will engage a Serious Violence Prevention Co-ordinator to develop and oversee the Serious Violence Duty Delivery Plan, on behalf of all Specified Authorities and in consultation with Relevant Authorities.

**Strategic Needs Assessment** – the CST will engage analytical leads to undertake a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment using qualitative and quantitative data.

**Serious Violence Prevention Strategy** – Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board have already adopted a Serious Violence Prevention Strategy. The recommendations for the Strategic Needs Assessment will be reflected in the Strategy, in developing and adopting a Theory of Change which forms part of the Home Office requirements.

**Training and Awareness Programme** – the CST will lead on behalf of all Specified and Relevant Authorities in the development and delivery of training. The team will ensure there are sufficient trainers to deliver awareness sessions to front line practitioners as agreed by each Specified Authorities. In addition a training programme for Single Points of Contact in lead services will be delivered, including a referral and assessment process.

**Lead Sponsor** – The Service Manager for Trading Standards and Community Safety for Warwickshire County Council will act as the Lead Sponsor on behalf of all of the Specified Authorities, reporting to relevant boards at District, Borough and partners agencies. They will lead in the response to the Home Office assessment process in relation to the Duty, ensuring there is an evidence of actions to meet the timeframe as set out by the Home Office.

**Whole School Approach** – The CST, working with Children Services will ensure that there is a consistent offer to all educational settings to provide universal and targeted support as well ask training of staff and parents under the current trends, signs, symptoms and referral processes.

**Specialist Mentoring Provision** – The CST will provide independent specialist mentoring provision on behalf of the Specified Authorities to support individuals and families involved in or affected by serious violence. This will include project that help deescalate group on group violence as required.

## Local delivery

In areas which are affected by serious violence, as highlighted in the Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, local partner

agencies will develop and co-ordinate the local response. The CST will support as required.

All local delivery programmes will be assessed on the three serious violence prevention pillars:-

<b>Prevent Serious Violence before it happens</b>	Developing a series of universal, targeted, and intensive interventions that prevent people becoming involved in county lines, group, or gang violence, carrying, or using a weapon, or becoming involved in social media that leads to violent conflict.
<b>Respond to emerging or immediate risks of serious violence</b>	Co-ordinate a response led by criminal justice, safeguarding, education and community safety leads to reduce the immediate threat of county lines, gang or group violence and weapon related violence.
<b>Long Term Support</b>	Strengthen communities to create an environment where serious violence is recognised and challenged; and collaborate with partner and communities to embed long-term violence prevention approach

### **Role of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner**

Local policing bodies, being Police and Crime Commissioners, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a police authority, are not specified authorities under the Duty.

However, they are strongly encouraged to take on a role as lead convener for the local partnership arrangements for the Duty in order to support the development and implementation of Serious Violence Duty and local strategy.

In line with the current arrangements the above specified authorities will co-operate with the Warwickshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner in the monitoring the named specified authority in exercising its functions under the Duty as set out in the Partnership Agreement.

It should be noted that the OPCC is the Grant Recipient for the SVD funding and responsible for administering it on behalf of the Home Office, including making grants to Specified Authorities to support delivery.

### **Funding Provision**

The Home Office is providing funding over the period January 2023 – March 2025 for specified authorities in the local area to meet the above requirements. The funding is divided into two distinct cost areas

- **Labour Costs** - This includes the costs associated with preparing and developing the SNAs and local strategies. It includes familiarisation costs, training, meeting costs, analysis, and strategy development.

The Home Office is flexible on how labour funding is spent provided that the specified authorities jointly agree on how it is used. This funding must be used to meet the specified authorities' labour costs incurred under the Duty, this can include the cost of additional resource in the local area to reduce the burden on the specified authorities, should they agree.

- **Non-Labour Costs** – This includes the costs associated with implementing the specified authorities' local strategy to reduce serious violence (the interventions). This can include the salary costs for delivering these interventions.

Home Office funding for Warwickshire is as follows:

- 2022/23      **£30,000** (Labour Costs only)
- 2023/24      **£263,506.30** (Labour:£180,000, Non-labour: £83,506.30)
- 2024/25      **£311,679.57** (Labour: £77,041.71, Non-labour: £234,637.86)

The projects as set out above will be funded as follows:-

- **Strategic Needs Assessment** – Labour Costs
- **Serious Violence Prevention Strategy** – Labour Costs
- **Training and Awareness Programme** – Labour Costs
- **Lead Sponsor** – No costs
- **Whole School Approach** – Non Labour Costs
- **Specialist Mentoring Provision** – Non Labour Costs.
- **Local delivery** – Non Labour Costs

The partnership agreement confirms that all Specified Authorities agree that WCC CST will be responsible on their behalf for managing all spend against the SVD budget in support of the duty requirements and delivery of the strategy, and will on their behalf enter into a Grant Agreement with the OPCC to secure access to the funding, which is paid by the Home Office in arrears.

Local areas will be supported to develop and deliver local violence prevention projects and funding from the Home Office Serious Violence Duty Non -Labour costs will be allocated accordingly.

## **Governance Structure**

### **Countywide**

#### **Strategic**

Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board will oversee the strategic direction of the Serious Violence Duty and the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

The Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group will act as the lead partnership body for the delivery of the Duty, the delivery plan, the Strategic Needs Assessment

and the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy. The group will be amended to the Serious Violence Strategic Board.

The Lead Sponsor will liaise with the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board who are seen as a key body in terms of embedding violence prevention within the wider health agenda.

### **Operational**

The existing Serious Organised Crime Tactical Group (SOC Tactical) will oversee the countywide operational activity related to serious violence. This will include emerging trends and performance which will help shape the Strategic Needs Assessment and the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

### **Locally**

**The local structure will be governed as follows:-**

#### **Strategic**

The four Community Safety Partnership Boards will oversee the local delivery of the Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and ensure that the Strategic Needs Assessment fully reflects the local profile of each District and Borough area. The Project Sponsor will provide a quarterly update report to the of the boards on delivery plan, Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy.

The four Community Safety Partnership Boards are:-

- North Warwickshire RAG
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Safety Partnership Board
- Rugby Community Safety Partnership Board
- South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership Board

NOTE- The county-level Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, and the governance arrangements set out for that in the Partnership Agreement, also fulfils the new requirement under Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 6(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (inserted by the PCSC Act 2022) for CSP's to have a strategy for

- (i) Preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area, and
- (ii) Reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

The above Partnership Agreement is for the period 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Serious Violence Strategic Board.

### **Operational**

Risk based, contextual safeguarding case management meetings will be established to align with the 3 area Police Command Structure, (North, East and South). These meetings will ensure that Children, young people and families at risk of becoming involved in serious violence and/or exploitation receive planned interventions/support co-ordinated and managed by professionals within Children and Families Service.

These meetings will support the Local Community Impact Operational Groups (CIOG) and local case management meetings that are set up to respond to local serious violence incidents and emerging issues at a district and borough level.

**Review period**

The above agreement will be reviewed bi-annual through the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board.

Signed by and on behalf of

Name

Position

Organisation

Signature

Date