



Humber and North Yorkshire
Health and Care Partnership

Serious Violence Duty and Domestic Abuse Update

Serious Violence Duty

- The Serious Violence Duty places a duty on Specified Authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence (set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and accompanying statutory guidance).
- ICBs are one of the specified authorities.
- The Duty in relation to the healthcare system in England rests with ICBs alone. All parts of the system and the NHS should be thinking about prevention of violence, but the statutory duty only applies to ICBs, and accountability sits with them.
- The Duty came into force on 31 January 2023.
- The definition of 'serious violence' is for local determination and now includes domestic abuse and sexual offences.
- Further information on the Serious Violence Duty can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-duty>

Background and context

It is estimated that domestic abuse costs the health care system £1.7 billion a year.

- 1 in 3 women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men experience sexual violence as adults,
- 1 in 20 people suffer sexual abuse as a child.
- Research has indicated an even higher prevalence rate of domestic abuse amongst health care professionals. The impacts of domestic abuse and sexual violence are felt in every area of our health care system.
- Serious violence disproportionately affects the most deprived communities.
- Knife crime particularly impacts younger people, with more victims and perpetrators than the general population aged under 25 and predominantly being young men and boys

New legislative and strategic framework

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| Domestic Abuse Act 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Positive duty to tackle domestic abuse; applies to both our patients and our staff. ✓ Children are recognised as victims in their own right, including when they have not suffered any physical injuries. ✓ Domestic abuse has a much wider definition including economic, honour and faith-based abuse, and FGM. ✓ New offence of non-fatal strangulation. |
| Health and Care Act 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Duty on ICBs to set out steps to address the particular needs of victims of abuse (including domestic and sexual abuse) in their Joint Forward Plans. |
| Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Duty on ICBs to contribute to a partnership assessment of 'serious violence' in local areas. 'Serious violence' now includes domestic abuse and sexual offences ✓ Strategies and interventions in place to prevent serious violence. |
| Victims Bill 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Duty on ICBs to collaborate in commissioning services to support victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and serious violence. |
| Women's Health Strategy 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Violence Against Women and Girls is seen as a public health issue ✓ Greater awareness of healthcare services that can provide specialist treatment and support for victims of sexual violence and FGM, such as sexual assault referral centres and FGM clinics. ✓ Prioritisation of prevention and reduction of violence against women and girls. ✓ Services and staff are able to be equipped to support victims of violence and abuse, and respond to both victims and perpetrators. ✓ Staff who are such victims of violence are supported in the workplace implemented evidenced based practice. ✓ Learnings and recommendations from the Domestic Homicide Review that relate to health organisations are taken forward, and embedded into the healthcare system at a national and local level. |
| Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop guidance that promotes evidence-based approaches to violence against women and girls through the new ICSs. ✓ NHS England to review and build on their workforce policies to ensure safe, effective processes are in place to support staff affected by VAWG. |
| Domestic Abuse Plan 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Funding through the Home Office to support the gathering of evidence for and commissioning of domestic abuse focussed health care interventions. |

Delivery of Serious Violence Duty across H&NY

Two sets of arrangements based on Police Constabulary footprints Humber Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) established in 2022.

One of 20 VRUs in England, a Home Office funded programme to lead and coordinating a preventative, whole system approach to violence reduction by focusing on multiagency working, data sharing and analysis, engaging young people and communities, commissioning and delivering evidence-based interventions.

North Yorkshire Serious Violence arrangements

NY have not been granted full VRU status and have established a Serious Violence Working Group of all Specified Authorities and are receiving support from Crest Advisory service, commissioned by the Home Office to deliver the Serious Violence Duty Local Support Offer contract.

ICB membership on Humber VRU Board and NY Serious Violence working group.

Timeline- Programmes at different stages of development - both on track to achieve national targets.

| Dec 22 | Jan 23 | Feb 23 | March 23 | April 23 | May 23 | June 23 | July 23 | Aug 23 | Sept 23 | Oct 23 | Nov 23 | Dec 23 | Jan 24 |
|-----------------------------|--------|---|----------|----------|-----------------------------|---------|---|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--|
| OPFCC apply for funding | | Authorities decide partnership arrangements | | | | | | | OPFCC submit Advanced Delivery Plan | | | | |
| Statuary Guidance published | | | | | Readiness Assessment agreed | | Crest support with SNA and Theory of Change Workshops | | Draft SNA complete | Local profile sign off | | Final SNA and Strategy Sign off | OPFCC submit final Delivery Plan, SNA and Strategy |
| | | OPFCC submit provisional delivery plans | | | | | SNA development work | | | | | | |
| | | OPFCC submit partnership agreements | | | | | | | | SVD Grant Programme | | | |
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ICB contribution to the Serious Violence Duty

- ICB BI staff are leading a project to improve data sharing between agencies who play a role in tackling serious violence, a core aim of VRUs. The aim of the project is to map current data sharing activity and illustrate how better access to data can assist with prevention and reduction of serious violence.
- Serious Violence Navigators in Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments is recognised as a high impact, evidence-based intervention in the reduction of serious violence. Building on the success and learning from a similar project at the University Hospital of Wales the ICB is currently leading a project to place the first Serious Violence Navigators into an A&E in H&NY.
- Taking a public health approach to serious violence and focusing on what lies behind the issue particularly the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse Community Environments there is an ambition for VRUs to be a trauma-aware programme, to this end trauma informed training for delivery partners is being provided by NHS Humber TFT

Addressing Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence in the JFP

The ICB Joint Forward Plan is required to set out how the needs of victims of abuse are being addressed. In addition to work undertaken with partners as a Specified Authority the ICB Plans include:

- Executive lead for Domestic Abuse, strengthening governance arrangements by establishing a system wide Domestic Abuse Board to build a network for adoption and spread best practice.
- Workshop planned for October to map current arrangements across the NHS in line with new statutory requirements and establish a programme of improvement work.
- Explore models of staff support and best practice in partner organisations, visit to a local Women's Centre and links with Humberside Police staff domestic abuse support group.

Finally consider what success looks like beyond the Home Office national measures of success .