

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

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| MEETING/<br>DECISION<br>MAKER: | <b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> |
| MEETING/<br>DECISION<br>DATE:  | <b>09 September 2024</b>  |
| TITLE:                         | <b>Interim update on the work of the Knife Crime Prevention Scrutiny Task Group</b>   |
| WARD:                          | All   |
| <b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>     |   |

### **1 THE ISSUE**

1.1 To update Panel on the work of its Knife Crime Prevention Task Group.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Panel is asked to;**

#### **2.1 Note the update**

**2.2 Consider any recommendations to help shape the future direction of the Task Group.**

### **3 THE REPORT**

3.1 [Council - 20 July 2023](#) invited scrutiny to review the impact of knives on Bath and North East Somerset's young people, with a focus on prevention.

3.2 In response, the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing (CAHW) Policy and Scrutiny (PDS) Panel at its meeting of [18 September 2023](#) established a Task Group to consider the work taking place to tackle and prevent knife crime in Bath and North East Somerset and to explore opportunities to further develop these approaches.

#### **3.3 Membership**

The Task Group membership is listed below:

Cllr Dine Romero (Chair)  
 Cllr Karen Walker (Vice Chair)  
 Cllr Liz Hardman  
 Cllr Shaun Hughes  
 Cllr Eleanor Jackson

### 3.4 Terms of reference

The Task Group was established with the following terms of reference:

- A) To identify the current position in relation to knife crime within Bath and North East Somerset, with a particular focus on young people
- B) To consider the local position in comparison to national and comparator data
- C) To review current approaches to the prevention of knife crime across Bath and North East Somerset
- D) To review knife crime prevention national best practice examples
- E) To consider opportunities for improving prevention of knife crime across Bath and North East Somerset

### 3.5 Meetings

The Task Group has met on 5 occasions to gather evidence:

| Date             | Focus  | Witnesses  |
|------------------|--|--|
| 1 November 2023  | Scoping the review   | Supported by the Inclusive Communities Manager.  |
| 27 November 2023 | Development of a plan to prevent and reduce serious violence in Bath and North East Somerset | Associate Director and Consultant in Public Health and Public Health Registrar   |
| 29 January 2024  | Update from Avon & Somerset Police   | Officers representing local policing, the Early Intervention Team and the Office for the Police and Crime Commission       |
| 19 March 2024    | Update from St Giles Trust   | Director of Development  |
| 19 April 2024    | Updates from Violence Reduction Unit, Youth Connect and Project 28                           | Violence Reduction Unit Coordinator, Youth Connect - Head of Operations and Practice, Young People's Service Manager – DHI |

### **3.6 Areas explored during evidence gathering**

To date the following areas have been considered by the Task Group.

- i) The overall data context relating to knife crime within B&NES
- ii) The locations and timings that knife crime is most likely to take place
- iii) The work of Violence Reduction Partnerships and the importance of collaboration
- iv) The profile of perpetrators and victims
- v) The role of partners in promoting prevention
- vi) The importance of education and the risks associated with a poor school experience

### **3.7 Findings to date**

The Task Group will provide a detailed narrative of the review's findings when it publishes its final report later in 2024. But some clear conclusions have already been established:

- The underlying risks behind knife crime are complex.
- Knife crime is increasingly being seen as a societal problem with a public health approach considered the most effective response.

### **3.8 Next steps**

The Task Group anticipates holding one further evidence gathering meeting before it compiles its final report. The topic is likely to be the importance of early intervention in preventing violent behaviour, although Panel members may wish to discuss additional areas for consideration.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 The Task Group in their final report will ensure that any recommendations take account of statutory considerations.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 There are no resource implications related to this interim update.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

## 7 EQUALITIES

7.1 The evidence gathering to date has clearly demonstrated that equality issues are key to ensuring preventative strategies are successful. This will be addressed within the final report.

## 8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The Task Group review has been undertaken across Microsoft Teams, enabling witnesses to participate, some from as far as London, without requiring to travel.

## 9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 This report is an interim update.

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The final report of the Task Group will be agreed by Task Group members before being submitted to Panel for approval and onward referral to Cabinet/Cabinet member.

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| <b>Contact person</b>  | Ceri Williams – Designated Scrutiny Officer<br><br>01225 396053 |
| <b>Background papers</b>   | None  |
| <b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b> |   |