

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING	18 September 2023
TITLE:	Establishing a Knife Crime Task Group
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel is invited to establish a task and finish group to learn about work taking place to tackle and prevent knife crime in Bath and North East Somerset and to explore opportunities to further develop these approaches.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

2.1 Agree to establish a Knife Crime Task Group;

2.2 Endorse the proposed terms of reference, as detailed in para 3.8;

2.3 Delegate authority to the Panel Chair and Vice Chair to finalise the task group membership;

2.4 Request that the task group's findings and recommendations are reported back to the Panel for endorsement within six months of its first meeting.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 Members will be aware of the commitment to review this area of work, following discussion at the Panel's 10 July 2023 meeting.

- 3.2 [Council, at its meeting of 20 July \(p7&8\)](#), welcomed this proposal and invited the Panel to review young people and knives in Bath and North East Somerset, with a focus on prevention and development of an associated action plan.
- 3.3 Recognising the subject's sensitivity and scale, it is proposed to conduct the review through a task group rather than at Panel or through an inquiry day.
- 3.4 The task group will meet in (hybrid) private session with findings reported publicly at the CAHW PDS Panel. The task group will consist of five members, with all backbench councillors with an interest in the review area invited to participate. The task group is not required to be politically proportionate, and members will elect a task group chair at the first meeting.
- 3.5 The review will consist of three phases:
- **Phase 1** – scoping the review (the first meeting)
 - **Phase 2** – evidence gathering (number of meetings determined following scoping)
 - **Phase 3** – findings and recommendations (produce final report)
- 3.6 The supporting scrutiny officer will capture the information presented during the evidence gathering and draft the final report. However, the members of the task group will have ownership of the review and subsequent findings/recommendations.
- 3.7 When the finalised report has been considered and endorsed by the CAHW Panel, the recommendations will be sent to the cabinet member for response. The response from the cabinet member will then be reported back to the CAHW PDS Panel. Following executive approval of any recommendations, the Panel may wish to invite future updates to monitor delivery, as appropriate.
- 3.8 Reflecting on Council's 20 July decision, the following terms of reference are proposed for the review:
- 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
 - f) To develop a final report identifying findings and recommendations and report to the CAHW PDS Panel within six months of the task group's first meeting.
- 3.9 The review will need to complement the work currently taking place to identify evidence and develop an implementation plan to fulfil the council's Serious

Violence Duty responsibilities. This will be addressed at the task group's scoping meeting.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 During its evidence gathering the task group will consider statutory considerations. These will be reflected in the final report, particularly in relation to any recommendations to emerge from the review.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the review will be supported through existing resources.

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 task group when considering current approaches to knife crime prevention across Bath and North East Somerset will explore the extent to which they reflect protected characteristics, as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 The task group review will consider, as appropriate, opportunities to contribute to the council's core policy of tackling the climate and ecological emergency, with the commitment to lead the UK in climate and nature action.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 **Review at Panel** – attempting to undertake the review at Panel level was dismissed because of time constraints on already busy agendas.
- 9.2 **Inquiry day** – this approach was ruled out because of time constraints when considering the request from Council to include an evidence-based action plan to exploit future opportunities.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Director of Public Health and Prevention, Director of Children's Services and Education, Head of Young People's Prevention Services and Inclusive Communities Manager.

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**Background
papers**

Motion to Council 20 July 2023

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