

## **Report of Assistant Chief Officer: Director of Prevention**

### **Serious Violence Duty Update**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To provide an overview of the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty and the impact on Fire and Rescue Services.
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#### **Recommendation**

***It is recommended that the introduction of the new Serious Violence Duty and the Fire and Rescue Service involvement are noted.***

#### **Introduction and Background**

2. Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation to introduce a new Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) on a range of specified authorities. The Serious Violence Duty therefore came in to effect in January 2023.
3. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.
4. The introduction of the Duty requires the police, fire and rescue authorities, councils, youth offending teams, specified Clinical Commissioning groups Integrated Care Systems, and probation services to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence as part of core service provision.
5. This includes working together to produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will prevent and reduce serious violence.
6. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) supports the development of the fire sector to strengthen its statutory functions of the Duty whilst supporting and promoting excellence and innovation in service delivery.
7. The NFCC is well positioned to co-design and develop joined up responses to the Duty through the development of national programmes of work that can further be supported by the research and development capacity of the NFCC.

## Fire and Rescue Service Statutory Duty

8. Each Fire and Rescue Service has identified a lead representative for the Duty. The representative will be responsible for compliance with the requirements of the Duty and holds responsibility for ensuring full participation with the partnership arrangements. The Assistant Chief Officer: Prevention, is the nominated lead representative for the Service.
9. Statutory partners across Herefordshire and Worcestershire have developed Serious Violence Duty Partnerships. The Partnerships will report into the West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
10. The Assistant Director: Prevention represents the Service at these meetings and the Head of Prevention is the Service representative for Community Safety Partnerships. Key messages are communicated to the Services' lead officer.
11. The Home Office has provided funding for the West Mercia area with the intention to provide partnerships with sufficient funds to assist in the delivery of the Duty. The expectation is that the funding is spent on early intervention and prevention activity across the health, justice, local authority, policing, fire and rescue sectors. Discussions are currently ongoing between local authorities to consider expenditure for funding for 2023 / 2024.

## Conclusion/Summary

12. This paper presents an overview of the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty and the statutory role of the Fire and Rescue Service.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	N/A
<b>Strategic Policy Links &amp; Core Code of Ethics</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and align to the Core Code of Ethics).	CRMP 2021 – 25 Prevention Strategy 2021 – 25 Protection Strategy CCoE Putting our Communities First
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	N/A
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	N/A

<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	N/A
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b> (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)	N/A