

# Serious Violence Duty

## What is the Serious Violence Duty?

The Serious Violence Duty, launched in January 2023, requires specified authorities to plan and collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area. It requires them to work together, using existing partnerships where possible, to share information and take effective coordinated action with their local communities.

The Crime and Disorder Act has also been amended to ensure Community Safety Partnerships have the prevention and reduction of serious violence as an explicit priority in their strategies. This is the [Safer Norfolk Plan](#) in our county.

## Why is it being introduced?

Serious violence has a devastating impact on victims and their families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.

A multi-agency approach is essential to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention approaches, which are informed by evidence.

## Who are the specified authorities?

Police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Integrated Care Boards (Health), Youth Justice Services, Probation and Local Authorities are the specified authorities responsible for delivering the Duty.

Other organisations are integral in the response to the Duty, including police and crime commissioners, educational settings, prisons and secure estates, the voluntary sector businesses and communities.

## What does the Duty involve?

Local areas are encouraged to take a 'public health approach'. This means using data and insights to understand serious violence and its causes locally. It requires collaboration with communities and other partners to generate short and longer-term solutions which draw on the evidence of effectiveness.

Importantly, this approach focuses on tackling the causes of violence and as such focuses on prevention and early intervention activity as well as deploying criminal justice responses where necessary.

## What are the requirements of the Duty?

Local areas must:

- Confirm the partnership arrangements through which they will deliver the Duty
- Create a strategic needs assessment
- [Develop and implement a strategy](#)
- Monitor the effectiveness of the strategy

## What is happening in Norfolk?

The Serious Violence Partnership Group, which is part of the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership, formed in 2022 and meets monthly to develop the local response to the Duty. The Community Safety and Violence Reduction Coordination Team within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk is supporting the partnership to develop the strategic needs assessment, agree the local definition of serious violence and develop and implement the Serious Violence Strategy.

## Get involved and find out more

If you would like to share your views to help shape Norfolk's response to the Duty [please complete this short survey](#). In the survey there is also an opportunity for you to share your contact details so that the team can get in touch.

[You can find out more about the Serious Violence Duty and the statutory guidance by visiting our website.](#)