

SERIOUS VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING

Ben Hudson
Serious Violence
Prevention Officer
Warwickshire
County Council

safe in...
warwickshire





HELLO

INTRODUCTIONS



Community Safety Training

safe in...
warwickshire

Serious Violence Prevention Training

Hosted both in person and online, Serious Violence Prevention Training is for colleagues and partners. Sessions focus on:

- The Serious Violence Duty
- What is Serious Violence, and a deep dive on the different forms it takes
- Examining the Warwickshire picture of Serious Violence
- Spotting red flags and warning signs
- How to report concerns

For more information contact:
communitysafetytraining@warwickshire.gov.uk

Preventing Radicalisation Training

Refreshed programme

3 main local Face to Face training courses:

1. Prevent Update Training - covering the Prevent Duty, recognising radicalisation risks and the help & support available
2. Prevent Online Grooming - covering the risks of online games and social media platforms
3. DSL Prevent Training - a half-day session looking at the Prevent Duty and education

Prevent E-Learning Opportunities:

A Home Office E-learning package that covers

- Awareness of the Prevent Duty
- Prevent referral arrangements
- The work of the Channel process

For more [information](#) please contact

communitysafetytraining@warwickshire.gov.uk

Prevent Online Grooming – Staying Safe Online

This course provides a guide to how social media and gaming can be used to groom vulnerable individuals. With detailed step-by-step explanation on the grooming process and ways in which to limit a young person's exposure to exploitation. For further information please contact communitysafetytraining@warwickshire.gov.uk

Find out more about community safety in Warwickshire by visiting the [Safe in Warwickshire](#) website

Modern Slavery Awareness Training

Aimed at broader public and private sector staff who could potentially come into contact with modern slavery indicators, including those working in local authorities, health sector, voluntary sector organisations, local business amongst others. Training covers warning signs and indicators, and forms of modern slavery, as well as legislation and how to report concerns. Sessions can be held in person or online. For more information, please contact communitysafetytraining@warwickshire.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse Training

Range of training sessions offered throughout the year including topics such as understanding abuse and coercive behaviour and identifying risk and safety planning. Contact datraining@warwickshire.gov.uk for more information

MENTI SLIDE 1:

What do
you think of
when you
hear
'Serious
Violence'?



Join at menti.com | use code **2839 1660**



What immediately comes to mind when you hear the phrase 'Serious Violence'?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting to let participants vote for their favorites



Menti

Serious Violence Slides



Choose a slide to present



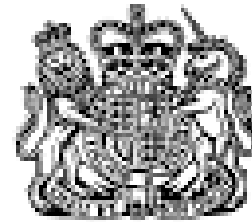
YOUR ORGANISATION'S UNDERSTANDING OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE AND THE DUTY

- You and your colleagues are here for a reason; to further your understanding of serious violence including new legal obligations, potential warning signs, and how to respond.
- But what do you currently know?
- What is 'serious violence' and what forms can it take?
- What are your organisation's current protocols when encountering or suspecting serious violence?



WHY IS THIS TRAINING NECESSARY?

- Introduction of the Serious Violence Duty under the Police, Crimes, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
- This sets out a legal requirement for all specified partner agencies and educational settings to collaborate towards the development of violence reduction initiatives and share data.
- Warwickshire is a safe place to live in comparison to other similar counties nationally. However, the same causal factors that result in serious violence are present here. This is evidenced by levels of organised crime, domestic violence, gang violence and county lines.



Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

CHAPTER 32



WHO ARE THE SPECIFIED AUTHORITIES

- Police
- Justice: Probation Service & Youth Justice
- Fire and Rescue
- Health: Integrated Care Boards
- Local Authorities

WHO ARE THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES?

- Education authorities – Including local authority-maintained schools, academies, independent schools, free schools; including primary schools, alternative provision and further education providers
- Voluntary sector organisations
- Prison and youth custody authorities



CONTINUED:

- Combatting serious violence requires a multi-agency approach. Through sharing data and resources, specified partner agencies can be more effective
- In order to achieve this we need to understand the causes of serious violence in Warwickshire to best inform us on how to react
- The Warwickshire Serious Violence Partnership Board

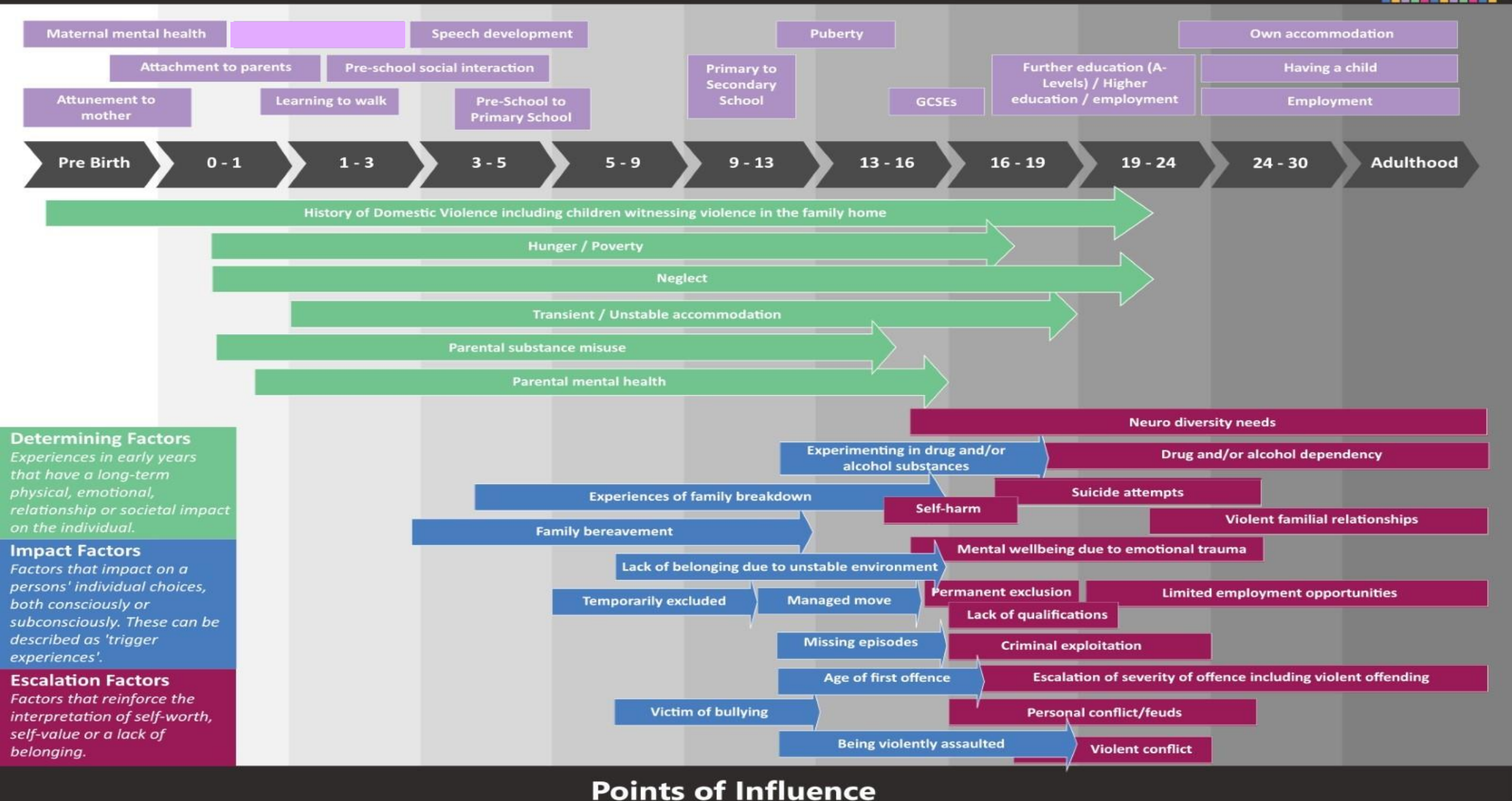




SAFE IN WARWICKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD'S SERIOUS VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY

- The adoption of a public health, prevention-based approach to tackling Serious Violence
- Three core themes:
 - Preventing Serious Violence
 - Responding to Serious Violence
 - Long-term Change

Points of Transition



WHAT IS SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Definition: 'The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or a group or community, that either results in, or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation' – World Health Organisation.

For example:

- Murder
- Assault
- Domestic Abuse
- Knife Crime



WHAT DOES THIS INCLUDE?

- County Lines

The exploitation of individuals and groups through drug supply networks. These transport drugs from one area to another.

- Violence involving a weapon

This includes knife crime and gun crime and corrosive substances.

- Sexual offences

This includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, online grooming. This includes, unwanted touching, creating, viewing or distributing child abusive imagery, being forced to look at sexual pictures and sexting.



WHAT DOES THIS INCLUDE?

- Domestic abuse

This is abusive behaviour towards one another when the parties are known to one another.

- This can include...

Controlling or coercive behaviour, sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, financial abuse, psychological and emotional.



WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

- Street gangs

Includes feuds, issues around disrespect and gang-based violence.

- Serious violence driven through social media

Using threats or coercion using social media to promote serious violent conflict.



MENTI SLIDE 2

What do you think is the most common form of serious violence in Warwickshire?



CS



Join at menti.com | use code **2839 1660**

 Mentimeter

What immediately comes to mind when you hear the phrase 'Serious Violence'?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting to let participants vote for their favorites



Menti

Serious Violence Slides



Choose a slide to present

What immediately comes to mind when you hear the phrase 'Serious Violence'?



What do you think is the most common form of Serious Violence in Warwickshire?

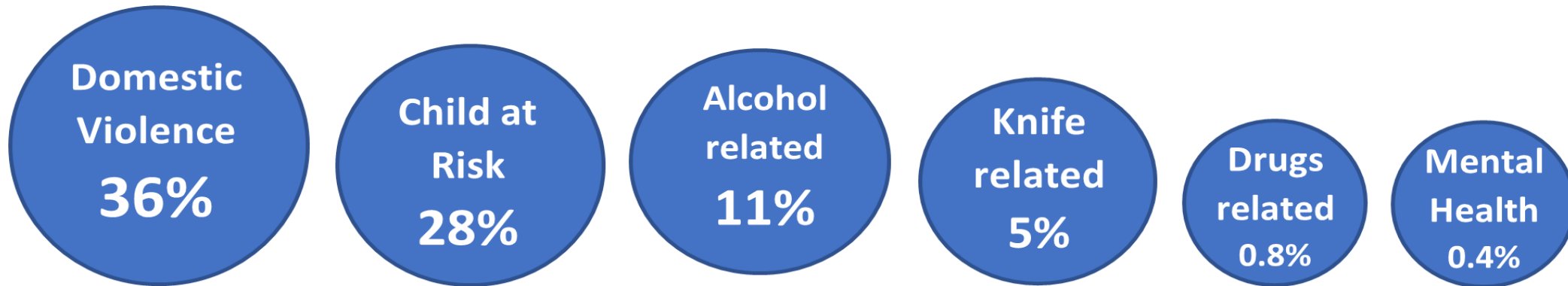


WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US?

- Warwickshire's cases of serious violence remain low compared to many other parts of the UK, however this is not a reason to rest on our laurels.
 - Violence is on the increase.
 - We are in close proximity to several large cities which brings challenges.
 - West Midlands now has the highest knife crime rate
 - County Lines gangs are regularly operating within our area bringing with them serious violence, exploitation and other drug related crime.
-

POLICE DATA ANALYSIS

➤ There were 13,176 violence with injury offences reported occurring in Warwickshire between April 2022 and 31st March 2025. This constitutes 11% of total recorded crime in Warwickshire during that period. Of these violence with injury offences:



Of the 5% of knife related violence, 10% involved some form of wounding – 7% being wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (section 18), compared to the remaining 3% relating to the slightly less serious offence of malicious wounding (section 20)

LOCAL POLICE DATA ANALYSIS

- The highest volumes of overall offences and those relating to domestic abuse were in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, followed by North Warwickshire Borough
 - Over a third of all violence with injury offences involving a knife occurred in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough alone (35%). The highest rates of these offences occurred in this borough, followed by Rugby Borough
 - **Suspects** remain mainly those aged 40 years and under, with **male suspects** accounting for more than **two thirds** of the offences. **30%** of suspects were **aged under 25 years old** and **38%** of suspects were aged **between 25 and 40 years old**.
-



COUNTY LINES

- The movement of drugs from one area to another for financial gain.
 - Usually involves the exploitation of people (usually young vulnerable people) who courier drugs from one area to another. Young people are often enticed into the lifestyle before it becomes coercive and violent.
 - Often a vulnerable person's home may be taken over by the drug gangs to use as a local base. This is referred to as 'cuckooing'.
 - Data on Missing Episodes demonstrates that there were a total of **4,032 missing episodes** in a two-year period between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2025. These episodes can be significant warning sign that a young person is at risk of becoming involved in County Lines activity.
-



COUNTY LINES

- As of the time of writing, there are approximately 8-12 active County Lines operating in Warwickshire, however this is fluid and liable to change very quickly.
- **Leamington Spa** (39%) is recorded as the most impacted area followed by **Rugby** (18%) and, **Nuneaton** (17%). Other areas impacted are; Stratford upon Avon, Bedworth, Warwick and Atherstone.
- Most originate from Birmingham and Coventry but are known to come from Manchester and London as well.

COUNTY LINES: CUCKOOING



sky news

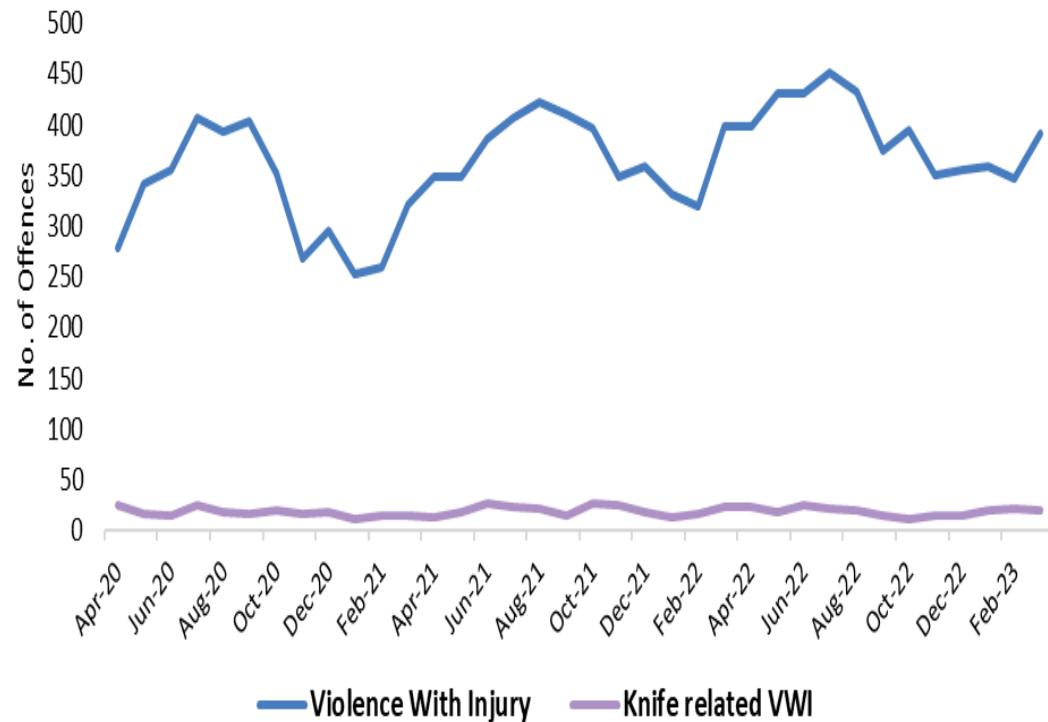
-
- **4,698** offences of domestic related violence with injury in the 3 year period. This represents 36% of all VWI offences during that time.
 - Offences of this type reported to the police have **increased by 11%** in the county over the last financial year. This is in addition to the **6% increase in referrals** to the Warwickshire commissioned support service for domestic abuse in Warwickshire, and the **16% increase in cases discussed at MARAC**.
 - Significant levels of domestic abuse goes unreported.
 - DA can severely impact mental and physical health, in addition to contributing to financial and housing difficulties.
 - Domestic violence can include not only physical violence but emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour.
 - Exposure to domestic abuse is a significant causal factor that can promote the continuation of the cycle of serious violence.
-

DOMESTIC ABUSE



KNIFE CRIME

Warwickshire Violence with Injury and Knife related Offences,
Apr 20-March 23



- Knife related violence in Warwickshire has slightly reduced over the 3 year period between April 2020 and March 2023, with **5%** of all violence with injury involving a **knife (675 offences)**.
- Over half of these offences in Warwickshire occurred in a home address, **28%** occurred in the street and **5%** occurred in a licensed premises. Over a third of all knife related violence with injury offences during the 3-year period were domestic related.

KNIFE CRIME

- There were **1550 possession of weapons offences** in Warwickshire in the 3 year period, and this has **increased over the reporting period by 30%**. An article with **blade or point** is the most identified weapon in these offences.
- Over a **third** of all violence with injury offences involving a **knife** occurred in **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough(35%)**. The highest rates of these offences occurred in this borough, followed by **Rugby Borough**.
- Violence with injury suspect profiles:
Suspects remain mainly those aged 40 years and under, with **male suspects** accounting for more than **two thirds** of the offences. **30%** of suspects were **aged under 25 years old** and **38%** of suspects were aged **between 25 and 40 years old**.



itv NEWS



UK TEEN GANGS: 'IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED'



THERE'S A FAMILY BEHIND EVERY BLADE

OPERATION TALKATIVE



You can't undo the cut that takes a life.
But you can stop the next one.

Your identity is protected.
Scan to report a knife before it's too late.

This image was generated using AI

OPERATION TALKATIVE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- Op Talkative is aimed to be a concerted partnership initiative to prevent and divert the threat of knife crime and possession within the County of Warwickshire.
- It is recognised that traditional police enforcement towards those perpetrators in possession of or using knives to commit crime has limitations and that this alone can miss the potential for early intervention to prevent and deter, which could potentially stop a person escalating into criminality, committing a serious offence or worse ending in very tragic circumstances.
- Op Talkative is asking for our community to share more information about anyone they know or hear about carrying or having possession of a knife. Increase in this information is vital to enable not only the police, but the full range of community safety partners to consider options to prevent and divert individuals risking their own and others safety in Warwickshire.



GUN CRIME

- Gun crime remains low in Warwickshire but is on the increase.
 - Gangs are more commonly using handguns to 'enforce' and threaten.
 - Use of 'blank firing' or converted firearms has overtaken 'real' guns in the UK for the first time as of January 2024.
 - Warwickshire was the only area in the West Midlands to see an increase in gun crime.
 - In 2021 Warwickshire recorded the third highest number of gun crime offences in the West Midlands
 - This increased from 38 to 47 in the year 2021 (compared to 2020)
-

KNOWING THE SIGNS

- Changes in behaviour
- Individual becomes quiet, withdrawn or secretive
- Change in friendship group
- Performance at school/ college changes eg drop in grades, attendance, exclusion etc
- Going missing for hours/days/weeks (MISPER's)
- More than one mobile phone
- Self harming
- Unexplained money/clothes
- Going out/socialising more
- Physical wounds eg bruises
- Change in language/ slang terms eg 'chef', 'violation', 'food'

**NEW PHONE
NEW BIKE
NEW MATES
NEW CLOTHES
NEW HABITS
NEW ATTITUDE
THE SIGNS OF
GROOMING CAN
BE HARD TO READ.**

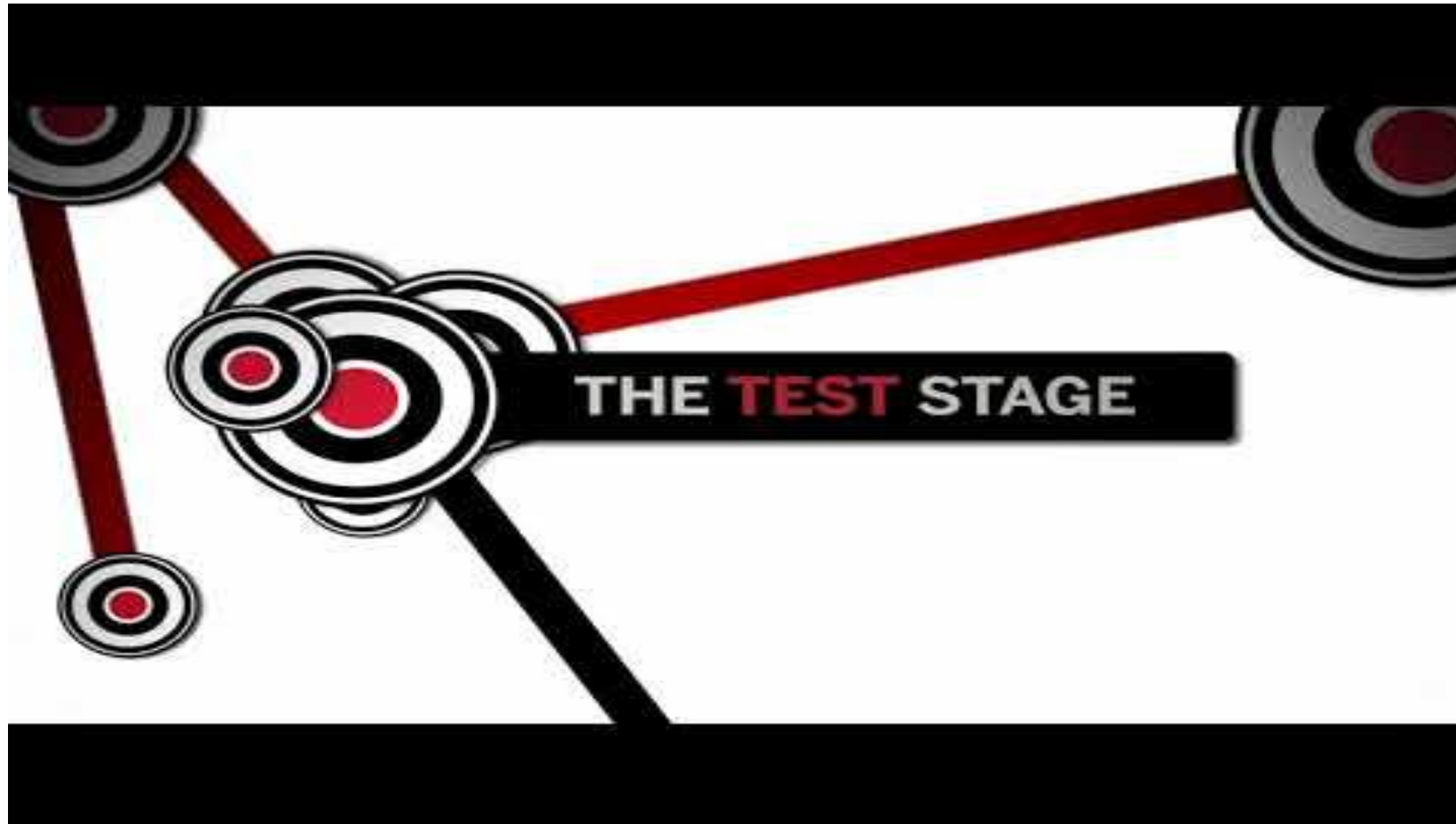
**Drug gangs are grooming kids in North Wales.
Know what to look for. Know who to help.**

www.eyes-open.co.uk

Give anonymous information
Crimestoppers-org.uk
0800 555 111

For help and advice
NSPCC.org.uk
0808 800 5000

KNOWING THE SIGNS



RECOGNISING THE LANGUAGE

- Chef/dip
- Burner
- Beef
- Food
- Trap house/ Bando
- Merk
- Strap
- Whip
- Plug
- Trapping
- Cuckooing
- Stab
- Unregistered or stolen phone
- Conflict
- Drugs
- Property where drugs are sold or produced
- Kill
- Gun
- Car
- A dealer, or hiding drugs within the body
- Supplying drugs
- Taking over a vulnerable persons home

RECOGNISING THE LANGUAGE

- Trap line
- Ops
- Shotter
- G
- Going country/ going cunch/OT
- Bagging
- Nitty
- Feds
- Slipping
- Lacking
- A phonline used to deal drugs
- Rivals, sometimes rival gang members
- A usually low level drug dealer
- A gram of a substance or 'gangster'
- Leaving the area for county lines activity
- Stabbing in the lower body
- Pejorative term for a drug addict
- Police
- To be in the wrong area or unprepared
- To be out without a weapon

RECOGNISING THE LANGUAGE

- Cocaine:
- Cannabis:
- Ecstasy and MDMA:
- Ketamine:
- Heroin:
- Crack Cocaine:
- Nitrous Oxide:
- Vapes:
 - Coke, Charlie, sniff, snow
 - Weed, zoot, joint, split, dust, shale, Stardawg, lemon haze, amnesia, purple haze, ammy.
 - Pingers, pills, MD, molly, mandy, powder.
 - Ket, K, Special K, (Calvin Klein – mixing Cocaine and ketamine together).
 - Brown, Smack.
 - Crack
 - NOS, Balloons, smart whip, creamers, nang
 - Brand specific e.g Elux, Lost Mary's, Elf Bar, Geek Bar etc

SCENARIO 1



- Firefighter Alex runs a youth group. They are becoming increasingly concerned about one of the boys who attends, George. His behaviour is getting worse, and he has been seen hanging about with older males. He seems withdrawn and sometimes has bruises on his face.
- What should they do?
- Talk to George and/or George's parents
- Contact Family Connect on 01926 414144
- Email triagehub@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Follow any procedures that the Youth club have implemented for safeguarding
- Dial 999 if you suspect there is an immediate danger

SCENARIO 2

- Gina works on the reception desk in the local A and E
- She has seen a young woman come in several times with different physical injuries accompanied by two older men. The young woman won't speak for herself as the men speak for her.
- What should she do?
- Explain that for triage and treatment, it will be necessary for the patient to be separated from the men.
- Follow any procedures the hospital have in place for safeguarding
- If Gina suspects the young woman is under 18, Contact Family Connect on 01926414144
- Email on triagehub@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Dial 999 if you suspect there is an immediate danger





SCENARIO 3

- Helen is a teacher. One of her students, Callum, keeps coming in covered in bruises. When she asks him what happened he says he fell off his bike. Helen isn't sure if she believes him.
 - What should she do?
 - Speak to Callum's parents
 - All schools have procedures and systems in place for recording safeguarding concerns eg CPOMS. Helen should record what she sees immediately. The system will build a clearer picture as other staff contribute information too.
 - The safeguarding lead should report any concerns to Family Connect where the information will be shared.
 - Helen should speak to the Safeguarding lead to get an update.
 - Dial 999 if you suspect there is an immediate danger
-

WARWICKSHIRE'S FAMILY CONNECT FOR UNDER 18S

- Replaces the MASH for young people
- Is the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns
- Is a 'triage' system
- Brings together Early help, social care and key partners eg police, social services, housing, drug and alcohol services, CAMHS etc
- Telephone 01926 414144 option 3
- Out of hours **01926 886922.**
- Email triagehub@warwickshire.gov.uk



PROVISION FOR OVER 18'S

- Currently, there is not a 'one stop shop' for over 18's
 - A bricolage of charities, adult social care, housing, GP's, hospitals, self-referrals (with long waiting lists) etc and so the service received will vary
 - We acknowledge this gap exists, and are currently collaborating with partner agencies and charities to provide pathways and referrals
 - Utilise the safeguarding policy and pathways in place within the organisation you're working within
 - Go through GP or access talking help therapies on NHS website, Samaritans, MIND, Warwickshire Adult Social Care, Age Concern
-

WHAT IS SOCIAL PRESCRIBING?

- An approach that aims to connect people to activities, groups and support that improve their health, wellbeing and opportunities. This could also include increasing someone's sense of belonging, and their connection to their community.
- Social prescribing can help empower individuals to take more responsibility and increase their levels of agency and autonomy.
- Wider examples could include things like:
 - Helping someone who is isolated join a group, class or community project.
 - Connecting someone struggling financially to a service that helps with managing debt or claiming benefits.
 - Working with someone with high blood pressure to take up a form of exercise they're comfortable with.



PURPOSE OF THE SERIOUS VIOLENCE PREVENTION SOCIAL PRESCRIBING FUND

- Supporting people impacted by serious violence, to divert them away from involvement or minimise the risks and harms associated.
- This could include people within the criminal justice system who are at risk as victims, perpetrators or both, or individuals linked with other services and are on the periphery of criminal justice system involvement.
- The fund is intended to offer a flexible approach to remove barriers that otherwise may prevent them from desisting from serious violence or being safe from harm.
- For example, this might include facilitating travel to job interviews or support services, or the pro-social use of time.
- Priority will be given to support that is not provided or is not easily provided by statutory services.

SOCIAL PRESCRIBING FUND CRITERIA

- Referrals to be made by professionals from agencies supporting individuals. Examples include but are not limited to: Probation, Youth Justice, Family & Adolescent Support Team, Social Workers, Voluntary and Community Sector Groups.
 - Application must be linked to serious violence. This could relate to the offending history, or association with SV of the subject.
 - Clear purpose of the requested funds, including links to any course/programmes/providers intended for use
 - Clear intended outcomes, and how they link to reducing risk of perpetrating, becoming a victim of, or association with serious violence.
 - If possible, offer an evaluation of success.
-

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

- £500 for someone engaged with Probation to buy and install carpet in his flat to make it more homely after coming out of prison.
- Access to a programme of sessions at the MAC project for a young person engaged with Youth Justice.
- Providing memberships at gyms and boxing clubs.
- Paying for someone engaged with Probation to undertake a HGV course to increase their employment opportunities.
- £145 for a push-bike for a young person to be able to get to work and attend appointments easily.



CONCLUSION

- You should now have expanded your understanding of the Serious Violence Duty, and its implications for members of the specified authorities
 - We have examined the Warwickshire picture, and the specific issues we face as a county.
 - We have explored some of the signs pointing towards involvement in serious violence
 - You should now be better equipped on how to respond you have suspicions or concerns relating to serious violence
-

CONTACTS

- Ben Hudson – Serious Violence Prevention Officer – benhudson@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Hema Nolan– Prevent Officer – hemanolan@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Warwickshire Children and Families Family Connect- TriageHub@Warwickshire.gov.uk or 01926 414144
- Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults - Resources and information
<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-adults/i-work-with-adults>

KEY REFERENCES

- Safe In Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy -
<https://safeinwarwickshire.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/safer-warwickshire-serious-violence-prevention-strategy-v4-1.pdf>
- Safe In Warwickshire Partnership Agreement -
<https://safeinwarwickshire.com/communitysafetyagreement/>
- Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance -
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125001/Final_Serious_Violence_Duty_Statutory_Guidance_-_December_2022.pdf