

SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY



What is the Serious Violence Duty?

Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would introduce a new **Serious Violence Duty** on public bodies which ensures relevant services work together to share data and knowledge allowing them to target interventions to prevent serious violence.

Why has the duty been introduced?
Serious violence has a devastating impact on victims and their families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014 and we all have challenges and opportunities to prevent and reduce serious violence.

What needs to happen in Suffolk?

1

Statutory duty holders must form a partnership group to steer activity and ensure engagement from the wider Suffolk system of statutory and third sector partners

2

The partnership group must undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment, sharing data and knowledge to understand the root causes of serious violence and where resources are best placed to have the biggest impact

3

The partnership group must produce a Serious Violence Strategy for Suffolk, published by 31st January 2024

Who are the duty holders?

Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Youth Justice Service, Probation Service, Ipswich Borough Council, West Suffolk Council, Babergh & Mid Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council, Integrated Care Boards and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to the duty holders, other organisations are expected to be involved in decision making, including police and crime commissioners, educational settings, prisons and secure estates, the voluntary sector, businesses and communities.

What are we doing in Suffolk?

The Suffolk Serious Violence Duty Partnership formed in late 2022 and has been meeting monthly to develop a response to the new duty.

The Strategic Needs Assessment is being undertaken by the Suffolk Office of Data and Analytics (SODA). This includes setting a definition of serious violence which currently includes offences relating to weapon use, homicide, robbery, aggravated burglary, assaults, arson endangering life, modern slavery, sexual assault, exploitation & disorder.

If you would like to know more about the work of the partnership please contact community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED?

If you work with children, young people, adults or communities whose lives are impacted by serious violence, you can help shape Suffolk's response. The Serious Violence Duty Partnership are currently seeking your views about Serious Violence in Suffolk – please help us to create a safer Suffolk by sharing your thoughts and ideas in our survey www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SVDSNA2023/

