

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting date: TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2024
Title: RIBBLE VALLEY CSP SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY ACTION PLAN
Submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Committee's endorsement of actions for this council in respect of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership Serious Violence Action Plan relating to the new Serious Violence Duty 2023.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives –
 - To treat everyone equally and ensure that access to services is available to all, including our most vulnerable citizens.
 - To engage with all our communities to ensure we deliver services to meet customer needs and expectations.
 - To seek to improve the transport network, especially to our rural areas.
 - To engage with all our communities to ensure we deliver services to meet customer needs and expectations.
 - To promote stronger, more confident and more active communities throughout the borough.
 - To improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in our area.
 - To improve the opportunity for people to participate in cultural, recreational and sporting activity.
 - To ensure that Ribble Valley remains a safe place to live.
 - To combat rural isolation.
 - To meet the housing needs of all sections of the Community.
- Corporate Priorities –
 - To ensure a well-managed council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
 - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
 - To match the supply of homes in the area with the identified housing needs.
- Other Considerations – To work collaboratively with partners to ensure we safeguard our most vulnerable residents.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Section 8 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ("PCSC Act") imposes a duty on the Council to collaborate with other specified authorities for the local government area to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. The duty includes a duty to plan and in particular to:

- Identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in an area;

- Identify the causes of serious violence in the area, so far as it is possible to do so;
 - Prepare and implement a strategy for exercising their functions to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area; and
- 2.2 Once a strategy has been prepared it must be published and then kept under review.
- 2.3 The Government has produced statutory Guidance to support organisations and authorities in exercising functions in respect of this duty. A copy of the Guidance can be found here [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/serious-violence-duty) .
- 2.4 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has also been amended to ensure that preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships.
- 2.5 The Guidance states in paragraph 39 that it is not necessary to create new partnerships to comply with the duty and that authorities can use existing partnerships such as Community Safety Partnerships. Lancashire district areas are responding to the duty collaboratively demonstrating their local needs and resources.
- 2.6 Sections 16 & 17 of the PCSC Act include provisions to support partners share information, intelligence and knowledge to prevent or reduce serious violence. The provisions create information sharing gateways to permit disclosure to specified authorities or bodies.
- 2.7 The Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership (RV CSP) has completed a joint assessment of services to identify gaps in provision to inform the Serious Violence Action Plan to meet those needs. By way of a response to the duty the RV CSP is required to publish a needs assessment and action plan by the end of January 2024. Associated papers (Needs Assessment and Members List) are available on request by contacting the Partnership Officer. A link to more information about the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership can be found here: [Community Safety Partnership – Ribble Valley Borough Council](#) .
- 2.8 Each district of Lancashire is preparing a needs assessment and action plan, in accordance with the guidance, supported by the Violence Reduction Network [Serious Violence Strategy](#) and [Lancashire Strategic Assessment](#).

3 **RV SERIOUS VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN**

- 3.1 The draft Ribble Valley CSP Serious Violence Action Plan is attached in Appendix 1. The actions identified relate to different members of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership and those directly associated with Ribble Valley Borough Council are highlighted for ease of reference.
- 3.2 The draft Ribble Valley CSP Serious Violence Action Plan was considered by the RV CSP on 19/10/2023 when it was agreed that each partner will consider the Action Plan and endorse the actions relevant to their organisation if required. Comments on the Action Plan will then be considered at the meeting of the CSP in 01/02/2024 when the Action Plan will be approved for publication.
- 3.3 Please find below a summary of actions to be endorsed:

- a. Action 1 relating to Domestic Abuse, ONLY if the lead agency (s) remain as amended (shown in red writing in Appendix 1).
 - b. Action 5 relating to all partner organisations sharing information across the partnership where necessary. This has implications for GDPR requirements. RVBC has a role to ensure that CSP procedures are up to date.
 - c. Action 7 relating to the provision of appropriate housing for homeless single people. RVBC is the lead agency for this action. This Action will have resource implications and a separate Report will be brought to committee to approve any spending above that which is already included in the council's budget.
 - d. Action 8 relating to additional equipment for Environmental Health services to assist in combating anti-social behaviour. RVBC is the lead agency for this action. This Action will have resource implications which, if it cannot be delivered within existing budgets, a separate report will be brought to committee in due course.
 - e. All other highlighted actions relating to RVBC relate to the role of the Partnership Officer and coordinator of the CSP, in supporting agencies to collaborate, share resources and identify appropriate funding sources.
- 3.4 Committee is asked to endorse the actions relating to RVBC and summarised above prior to the Action Plan being considered and approved by the RV CSP.
- 3.5 The attached draft Ribble Valley CSP Serious Violence Action Plan in Appendix 1 includes a number of editorial changes (shown in red writing or with a strikethrough), which improve the clarity of the document. Committee is asked to endorse these and recommend to RV CSP that these changes are made prior to the Action Plan being published.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Any staff time spent in respect of coordinating the council's response to actions and sourcing external funding will be met from existing staff budgets and will largely fall to the Partnership Officer post.

Future reports will be brought before members for decision in relation to the delivery of any actions with additional budgetary implications for the Council as for example the provision of additional accommodation for single people , (Action 7).

External funding will always be sought as a first option for facilitating the actions that are listed.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Action Plan is prepared under the provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour and Policing Act, 2014 and the Policing and Crime Act, 2017. There are no technical or environmental implications.

Any necessary information sharing (Action 5) will be governed by formal agreements between relevant partners and will require consideration and signing by the Council in accordance with relevant Council procedures.

- Political – The draft Action Plan has been supported and endorsed by all members on the partnership which include three elected Members of this Council and the Lancashire County Council representative. Endorsing the actions demonstrate political leadership in addressing antisocial behaviour and ensuring community safety which are a high priority for community members.
- Reputation – The publication of the Action Plan will ensure that the Council meet its Serious Violence Duty.
- Equality & Diversity – The Report does not raise any equality and diversity issues. The Action Plan will ensure improved access to services for the most vulnerable people in the community including those with disabilities, adverse childhood experiences and chaotic lives.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Endorse the actions highlighted in the RV Serious Violence Action Plan relating to Ribble Valley Borough Council as set out in paragraph 3.3.
- 5.2 Delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development and Planning to agree editorial changes to the Action Plan which improve the clarity and accuracy of the document before it is published.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS
None

For further information please ask for Sarah Wells (Partnership Officer), extension 4506.