



HM Government

Prime Minister's Summit on Serious Youth Violence

1 - 4 April 2019, 10 Downing Street

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1. Introduction

The Government is committed to tackling serious violence – particularly the recent increase in knife crime and acts of violence committed by young people. In April 2018, the Government published its Serious Violence Strategy and has since announced a range of further measures, including more recently committing £100 million of funding in the Spring Statement for police to tackle violent crime, and to invest in violence reduction units. Building on this work, and in order to ensure the strongest possible response, the Prime Minister hosted a Serious Youth Violence Summit at 10 Downing Street from 1 to 4 April 2019, supported by senior Ministerial colleagues. The Summit brought together over 140 attendees from a range of different sectors and backgrounds to discuss the causes of serious violence, and how Government, agencies and communities could work together to address it.

The central aim of the summit was to ensure a shared understanding and commitment to a multi-agency or 'public health' approach to tackling knife crime and serious violence more generally. This involves partners across different sectors – such as education, health, social services, police, offender management services, housing, youth and victim services, working closely with community and faith leaders, and the voluntary and charitable sectors – taking joint action to address the underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence. Coinciding with the Summit, the Government launched a consultation with proposals for a legal duty that would underpin this approach¹.

Over the course of the Summit, there were eight Ministerially-chaired sessions, each focused on a specific theme, with a cross-section of attendees, including experts, frontline practitioners and young people with experience of living in communities affected by violence. The Prime Minister also met families of victims of violent crime in a private meeting.

A wide range of views were expressed during the Summit but there was broad agreement on the need to understand the root causes of serious violence, the importance of prevention and early intervention, and the need for evidence and rigorous evaluation of interventions to underpin next steps. A number of sessions also focused on the importance of bringing together information, data and intelligence, and encouraging organisations and individuals to work in concert rather than in isolation. Attendees identified many examples of good practice taking place in local areas and communities, and there was consensus on the importance of a shared approach to preventing and tackling serious violence.

This report summarises the key discussion points and some of the initial next steps arising from each of the sessions. In her opening remarks, the Prime Minister announced that a new Ministerial Taskforce would be set up to take forward these outcomes, identify further areas for action, and coordinate and drive progress across Government to tackle serious violence.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/serious-violence-new-legal-duty-to-support-multi-agency-action>

2. Programme

Monday 1 April

- Opening session – chaired by Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Prime Minister
- 'Best practice in law enforcement' – chaired by Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Policing and the Fire Service
- 'The role of education' – chaired by Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education
- 'Investing in communities' – chaired by Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- 'Positive activities for young people' – chaired by Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Tuesday 2 April

- 'Creating opportunities for young people through mentoring, training and employment' – chaired by Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability

Wednesday 3 April

- 'The role of the health sector' – chaired by Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Thursday 4 April

- 'The effectiveness of the criminal justice system' – chaired by Rt Hon David Gauke MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

3. Summary of Proceedings

This section provides a summary of the key discussion points and outcomes arising from each of the sessions. A full list of attendees follows in Chapter 4.

A. Opening Session

Chaired by the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Prime Minister

Extract from the Prime Minister's opening remarks

Thank you all for coming today to help us tackle an issue that is a top priority not only for this Government and the organisations you represent but for families, young people and indeed all of us in towns and cities right across the country.

In recent months, we have seen an appalling number of young lives cut short or devastated by serious violent crime, including a number of horrifying incidents across the weekend – with murders and attacks often committed by people who are just as young as their victims.

It is a challenge that affects all of society, and it is one we must rise to as a society. Not as individual politicians or practitioners operating in isolation, but coming together in a co-ordinated, wide-reaching and long-term effort. Because, while we will always hold criminals to account for their actions and give the police the resources and tools they need to apprehend those who carry and use knives, we cannot hope to simply arrest our way out of this situation.

After all, if it was some devastating disease that was killing our young people, we would not merely treat the symptoms – we would also address the underlying cause. So it must be with the cancer of serious youth violence. Our approach has to involve more than just law enforcement. And that is what this week's summit is all about.

It's about building on the work we have already done – for example the Serious Violence Strategy and Youth Endowment Fund – to shape a multiagency, whole-community approach to serious youth violence. It's a model that is often referred to as a "public health approach". One where everyone works together – across the system and in multiple agencies – to share information and, crucially, to make every contact count.

To help make that happen we have launched a consultation on a public duty that would underpin such an approach. I can also announce that a new Ministerial Taskforce will co-ordinate the Government's role and make sure all departments are playing their part. This will be supported by a new Serious Violence Team in the Cabinet Office. It will have



representatives from across Government to ensure join-up, and be well-placed to assist local areas as they build operational equivalents in their own Violence Reduction Units.

Of course, nothing any of us say or do here today will bring back the sons, daughters, sisters and brothers whose lives have been so cruelly taken in recent months. But what we can do today is say, clearly and loudly, "this must stop". And we can begin to shape the new approach that will meet the scourge of youth violence head on, so that more families are spared the unimaginable suffering that has already been endured by so many.

Expert presentations

Following the Prime Minister's remarks, attendees heard from two international experts on their experiences of tackling serious violence: Professor Jens Ludwig, from the University of Chicago and Crime Lab, and Professor Mark Bellis, Director of Policy, Research and International Development for Public Health Wales and a member of the World Health Organisation advisory panel on violence prevention.

Professor Ludwig shared his experiences of working in Chicago during a period of increasing homicide rates. He noted that only a small subset of individuals were at risk of perpetrating these crimes, and so precision policing was key. Precision policing uses data to target high-risk places, times and people, and incorporates community outreach as well as focusing police tactical responses. It relies heavily on modern IT infrastructure, feeding back on metrics in high crime areas to guide the policing response. Dr Ludwig emphasised that this approach is scalable and resource-neutral - the response requires police forces to alter their tactics and increase community interactions, not solely requiring increasing officer numbers. He also described the importance of positive community engagement and longer-term efforts to address the root causes of the problem, such as identifying children who had been exposed to domestic violence.



Professor Bellis continued this theme, describing violence as contagious. If a child grows up witnessing domestic abuse or suffering maltreatment, they are over ten times more likely to commit violent acts as an adult. They were also more likely to grow with mental and physical health problems. One lesson he had learnt from Wales and other countries was that data sharing was key; not just for targeted policing purposes but also for all other agencies to understand where they should provide earlier interventions and support. He provided an example of how different public systems could work more effectively together. Police investigating an evening domestic

abuse incident with a child present informed their school before school begins the next day. The school had already been trauma-trained so they were able to better support that child through a difficult period. This approach could build a more resilient child; improving school relations and consequently reducing risks of violence.

Discussion

The Home Secretary initiated the wider discussion by setting out the commitments delivered in the Serious Violence Strategy, the Government's vision for a multi-agency or 'public health' approach to tackling serious violence, and the work the Government is already undertaking to make this a reality. This included: additional funding for the police to create Violence Reduction Units; the establishment of the £200m Youth Endowment Fund; doubling the funding for the Early Intervention Youth Fund to £22m; the independent review of drugs misuse being chaired by Dame Carol Black; and, the establishment of the National Crime Agency's National County Lines Coordination Centre. He emphasised the importance of a multi-agency model which involves better joining up of all agencies who have involvement with young people in order to improve society's response to serious youth violence.



The subsequent discussion amongst attendees explored a wide range of topics. There was agreement that young people should be provided with support and opportunities to make positive choices in their lives. This meant making every interaction count, with all parts of the public sector working together to ensure that every young person, including those most vulnerable to violent crime, were enabled to achieve and pursue alternatives to a life of criminality. The role of communities was also crucial – including the need to engage constructively with public bodies so support could be targeted at those most in need.

The discussion reflected on how young people could be diverted from carrying knives or engaging in violent crime, including the role of social media or utilising the school curriculum to support young people. There was also a need to consider in detail the implications of permanent exclusion and ensuring high quality provision across the education sector. It was suggested that further support for vulnerable pupils was also needed in schools, to help them as they progressed through their educational career through to adulthood.

The importance of ensuring a robust criminal justice system and underpinning legal framework was flagged by a number of attendees as an area on which to focus effort. Attendees also posed questions about reforming short sentences in order to provide alternative options to prison for young people, and whether an adult prison delivered the right kind of support and environment to move an 18 year old out of a cycle of re-offending.

The group also discussed whether there should be greater support and focus on the family and friends of victims, as well as the victims themselves. In particular, they suggested that more assistance could be given to this wider group in terms of mental health support. The attendees discussed the strong support from the NHS for youth intervention teams to work alongside trauma teams in A&E departments, which were producing excellent results and useful data. There was agreement that improved data sharing between agencies (such as the NHS) was necessary to support precision policing and early intervention.

The Prime Minister closed the session by reflecting on the broad consensus that existed over 'what worked' in terms of successful interventions. She emphasised the need for all agencies involved to embrace the new approach to tackling serious violence, and concluded that the system should be motivated to provide young people with a pathway to opportunity and hope for the future, away from violent criminality.



Next Steps

- **The Prime Minister will chair a new Ministerial Taskforce to coordinate Government activity and ensure all departments are playing their part in reducing serious violence.**
- **The Government will set up a new Serious Violence Team in the Cabinet Office to support this Ministerial Taskforce and work with local areas as they build their own Violence Reduction Units.**
- **The Government will consult on a new legal duty to support multi-agency action to preventing and tackling serious violence.**
- **The Government will develop an action plan, informed by proposed next steps from Summit attendees.**

B. Best Practice in Law Enforcement

Chaired by the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Policing and the Fire Service

Objectives

The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service chaired a discussion aimed at:

- identifying how Violence Reduction Units can support the police to ensure an effective multi-agency response, better data sharing between partners, and a hub for coordinating effective, meaningful and sustainable alternatives for young people who would otherwise be drawn to criminality or at risk of exploitation;
- achieving effective hotspot/precision policing – by ensuring the right tools, powers and guidance for the police; and
- harnessing the support of communities for hotspot policing through effective engagement with agencies and the wider communities.



Discussion

The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service opened by stressing the importance of understanding what different organisations were doing in this area, and what they wanted to do. The Summit was intended to act as a forum to stimulate more of the things that were effective in combating serious youth violence.

Professor Ludwig spoke in more detail about his experiences in Chicago, where precision policing was critical to the reduction of violent crimes. Data analysis and artificial intelligence had helped police to target interventions, as well as revealing underlying predictors of violent criminality. The key challenge in Chicago was the adoption of new technology by those on the frontline – consequently, barriers to engagement should be identified as early as possible.

“It was very interesting – it was my first roundtable at No 10, but it was very useful to understand a different perspective which I believe could be useful if we had more young people at the roundtable talking about their own experiences as well. And it bridges the gap between young people and those in senior positions as well, especially law-makers.”

Marhawit Ghebre, Greater London Authority

Sharing experiences of tackling serious violence, participants echoed the importance of a data-informed approach – the police and other agencies needed to be empowered to introduce new technology, share data and address gaps in intelligence. A number of issues were raised affecting the policing of serious violence, including the benefits of longer-term sustainability of funding and the need to ensure that bail conditions do not act as a disincentive to charge.

Attendees went on to reflect on how data sharing and technology could be used, both to target resources and to measure positive community interactions. Some flagged the increasing relevance of social media, and the need for police to integrate less traditional elements responses such as social media monitoring and engagement with trading standards.



There was a strong sense from attendees that a joined-up approach on the frontline was important, and that good practice should be shared, whilst recognising the need to tailor interventions depending on the local context. There was significant discussion of the need to develop community relations, in order to build trust, support victims and assist intelligence led policing. Attendees highlighted the need for opportunities for the police to build relationships, for example through schools, sports and youth clubs. Attendees discussed the fact that the use of powers like stop and search should always be complemented by neighbourhood policing and outreach, to build trust with communities. The importance of ensuring that young people's voices were heard, particularly those who are harder to reach, was highlighted.

Attendees considered how local Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) could support this approach, looking at successful interventions from the well-established Scottish VRU. In

particular, attendees considered the units' role in encouraging cooperation and data sharing across agencies on the frontline. The units should also be part of efforts to hold local leadership accountable for the response to serious violence – within the police, local government, health bodies and more broadly.

“For the government, ending this terrible cycle of serious violence is a major priority. It is devastating in its impact on families and communities. We have a plan that combines more support for the police in terms of resources and powers to help them enforce the law. But alongside robust law enforcement and just as important over the longer term is investment in community based prevention and early intervention to engage with young people at an earlier age to try to steer them away from bad decisions that could have devastating consequences from them, and their friends and their families.”

Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Policing and the Fire Service

Next Steps

- **The Government has allocated £100 million additional funding in 2019/20 to tackle serious violence: enabling surged resource and the establishment of Violence Reduction Units in the areas of the country most affected by serious violence.**
- **Violence Reduction Units will bring together a range of services, including social services, health and education, to promote a joined up approach to serious violence on the frontline, including improved information sharing and cooperation.**
- **The Government will run a pilot to make it simpler for hotspot forces to use ‘area-wide’ section 60 stop and search powers.**
- **The Government will work with the police to explore new approaches, including the use of emerging technologies.**
- **The Government will consider whether the Crime and Disorder Act could be used to ensure that NHS data is shared with Community Safety Partnerships.**

C. The Role of Education

Chaired by the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education

Objectives

The Secretary of State for Education chaired a discussion aimed at:

- exploring the role of education and care in creating the best opportunities for young people; and
- identifying best practice in relation to preventing violence, particularly through supporting stronger schools, families and communities by: improving attendance; addressing poor behaviour; raising the quality of mainstream and alternative provision; reducing early childhood adversity; and improving multi-agency working, safety and stability.



Discussion

The Secretary of State for Education opened the discussion by stressing the important role of education in providing opportunities and protecting young people at risk of becoming involved in serious violence. Attendees reflected on how education services could work to build stronger schools, families and communities.

Attendees agreed that education is a protective factor, and that curriculum delivery could play a role in tackling serious violence. For example, helping pupils to develop proficiency in maths and English supported success in school, but also built a strong foundation for future careers and adulthood. Attendees noted that supporting young people, particularly the most vulnerable, to attend and remain engaged in school, opened up opportunities for young people and helped divert those at risk away from crime.

The group discussed the importance of improving attendance, keeping children safe in education, addressing poor behaviour and raising standards across all types of education providers – mainstream, alternative and post-16. Alternative provision education, outside of mainstream schooling, was a valuable option with a high proportion of providers being rated as “good” or “outstanding” by Ofsted.



Participants agreed that there was also a need for broader community support of young people in education, and in particular, for examining how to support vulnerable young people transitioning into post-16 education. They discussed how role models could be a significant influence on young peoples' lives, and the need for increased diversity in the teaching workforce to provide these role models. Some attendees raised the need to examine the role of permanent exclusions and the relationship between schools and the police. Attendees discussed how young people in high crime areas were experiencing trauma, and thought that greater trauma awareness in schools could potentially help frontline practitioners' better support young people.

A key theme in discussions was the importance of working together. The roundtable group agreed that a multi-agency approach was needed - collaboration at a local level, including the sharing of best practice, should be encouraged through all possible channels.

Next Steps

- **The Government will deliver a range of reforms designed to improve outcomes for pupils at risk. These include: reforming alternative provision, as outlined in 2018; introducing new Relationships, Sex and Health education from 2020 to help schools teach pupils how to build healthy relationships; publishing new guidance later in 2019 to help schools and colleges to respond to serious incidents, including knife crime; and taking targeted action to tackle child exploitation and improve children's social care.**
- **The Government has consulted the sector and public on steps to introduce a register for children not attending school.**
- **The Government will publish Edward Timpson's independent review of exclusion practice, alongside the Government's response. It is also conducting a separate review of how to improve educational outcomes of children in need, due to report later in 2019.**
- **The Government will consider what further actions can be taken, working with education, police, youth, care, community and health services, to continue to support vulnerable young people. In particular, it will look at steps to improve attendance, raise the quality of education provision and help pupils to access supportive services.**

D. Investing in Communities

Chaired by the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Objectives

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government chaired a discussion aimed at:

- exploring best practice in empowering people within communities to build the links needed and proactively work together to intervene before violent crime takes place;
- encouraging communities to share information, particularly relating to people at risk of violence; and
- identifying what works well in tackling knife crime – taking into account the outcomes of the Troubled Families programme to understand what support and gaps there are in place for vulnerable children.



Discussion

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government opened the discussion by championing the role of community leaders and organisations as part of the multi-agency approach. He praised the impressive work done by grassroots organisations to prevent serious violence, and reflected on the rapidly changing environment in which young people now grow up. He said that it was crucial that Government and community organisations listened carefully to children and young adults and acted on what they heard.

Attendees said that community-led action, with the support of Government, provided the best solutions, and community organisers had demonstrated good delivery of events as well as ensuring that public bodies fulfilled their requirements. Attendees noted that community organisers could be helpful in ensuring bodies with statutory obligations were delivering on their obligations. The voices of young people were crucial to understanding the best actions and community-led solutions. There was an opportunity for both local and central Government to consider further where they could add value.

Some participants felt that there was a need for a culture shift towards communities being able to have even greater responsibility to take local action. However, these actions would require resources, for example to keep church buildings open for longer. Attendees agreed that community actions needed to have an impact in the short-term, and in particular during times when more young people are around and outside such as during summer holidays, in order to gain the trust of communities.



“The serious youth violence summit was an eye-opener for me as an attendee and a good forum for communicating concerns as an educator about the recent surge in youth violence. It was indeed inspiring to hear how seriously the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London take this issue. As the Prime Minister rightly said, we can’t arrest our way out of this crisis but we can all work together to defeat this menace in our society – government, communities and most importantly young people.”

Ashfaque Chowdhury, Chairman, Association of Muslim Schools

Attendees agreed that different communities and the Government should look to what has worked previously, including the benefits of a multi-agency approach. They discussed the strong evidence base supporting this approach, for example from Scotland, Wales and Chicago, and that learning lessons from these communities would be essential in tackling issues in England.

Next Steps

- **The Government will ensure that the community voice continues to be supported and strengthened through the Near Neighbours programme, which brings people from different backgrounds together for initiatives that improve their local neighbourhoods.**
- **The Faith Leader Training Initiative will equip faith leaders with the skills to identify and support their congregations in tackling the drivers of serious youth violence.**
- **The Government will extend the Troubled Families Programme to 21 areas where youth violence is an issue, testing approaches in schools, communities and police stations with a range of positive diversionary activities and awareness raising. The Government will also share learning from this programme, which is based on early intervention and multi-agency principles, to support future policy development.**

E. Positive Activities for Young People

Chaired by the Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Objectives

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport chaired a discussion aimed at:

- identifying ways to support the youth sector and others to provide positive activities for young people, including through sports, music and art; and
- developing a future vision for the youth sector to shape its ability to support all young people, especially those most at risk of youth violence, over the next decade.



Discussion

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport opened the discussion by highlighting the need for the Government and civil society to work together to increase the availability of positive activities for young people, and improve trust between young people and the institutions that provide these opportunities.

Attendees discussed the recommendations made by the Youth Violence Commission interim report, which highlighted the need to improve relations between young people and the police and the need for creative activities for young people, especially outside of school hours. A key recommendation of the report was the adoption of a 'public health' approach to tackle serious violence, and this approach was supported by attendees.

When discussing the provision of extra-curricular activities, attendees talked about the importance of flexibility, and the need to seek direct input from young people to determine the resources and services that were offered. Attendees suggested that organisations should work with the local community to deliver such services, building on the existing trust held by organisations with a long-established local presence. Attendees talked about the need for equal consideration to be given to the opportunities and services that were available to young people leaving custody, given the need to reach young people at risk of serious violence. Attendees suggested a need for more work experience opportunities, improved training and clear routes to employment for vulnerable individuals.

"It feels an honour to be selected to represent young people and speak on an issue that's so close to my heart and close to the community. I feel that also it's about time – this thing has been happening for such a long period of time. So I'm happy that we've now decided to take this issue hopefully seriously."

Busayo Oyedoyin, Former Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Hackney

Attendees talked about how local authorities and schools were under pressure to provide youth services and extra-curricular activities, and recognised that the responsibility for tackling serious violence issues should be shared across the community as part of a multi-agency approach.

Next Steps

- **The Government will work to develop a Youth Charter, in conjunction with young people, the youth sector, and other partners to set out the offer to support young people in reaching their full potential.**
- **The Government will work with the Premier League, and other National Governing Bodies, to scale up existing programmes such as Premier League Kicks to provide positive activities, support and education, working with young people in serious violence hotspot areas.**

F. Creating Opportunities for Young People

Chaired by the Victoria Atkins MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability

Objectives

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability chaired a discussion aimed at:

- identifying best practice and creating further opportunities for young people through employment, mentoring and training; and
- looking to scale up existing initiatives and enable private sector investment in local community projects for young people.



Discussion

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability opened by emphasising the importance of jobs and educational opportunities to improve the aspirations of young people.

Discussions focused on how Government could target support at the relatively small percentage of young people who were at risk of becoming perpetrators of violence. It was agreed that interventions needed to be targeted well, given challenges reaching these groups. Attendees suggested that small, grassroots, organisations might be best placed to reach this cohort, but required funding support and assistance with drafting grant applications.

“A large part of what affects those from the poorest communities is of course youth violence, knife crime etc. And to be able to come into 10 Downing Street to discuss this amongst other leaders, and ministers as well, is a great opportunity. I found it very useful. There were several challenges as to what we can do in terms of taking an asset-based approach in the sense that young people are not the problem, and it’s up to us to come up with ways where we can tap into that potential that each and every one of our young people has.”

Peter Olawaye, EY Foundation

The discussion reflected on the particular challenges faced by young people from black and minority ethnic communities, including high levels of unemployment and poor quality of employment. Attendees agreed that it was important that these young people were aware of the opportunities available to them. It was also important to nurture aspirations for young people. Attendees agreed that to achieve this young people needed support and reflected on how best to provide effective support. It was agreed that the work of the Race Disparity Audit had been important and that further work should be done to encourage businesses to engage with those from the black and minority ethnic communities.

Attendees reflected on the role of businesses in providing employment and mentoring opportunities for young people. Businesses were often enthusiastic about the mutual benefits of these programmes, and would benefit from support to, for example, link opportunities to hotspot areas and young people at risk.

Attendees considered cases where rapid interventions might be needed – for example, to prevent retaliation from victims or witnesses of serious violence or to prevent reoffending.



“The discussion at the roundtable was incredibly insightful and hugely valuable to me as a Director of One Million Mentors to think about targeted approaches for specific young people that require more focused interventions.”

Alveena Malik, One Million Mentors

Next Steps

- **The Government has pledged to look into what more can be done to improve the employment prospects and mentors available to young people, and agreed to keep working with business to tackle serious violence.**
- **The Government will work with the private sector to establish a ‘Creating Opportunities Forum’ to build on mentoring and training schemes for young people at risk of violent crime.**
- **The Government will work with Google to explore what action could be taken against producers of material that incites violence, including some drill music.**
- **The Government will explore whether it would be possible for housing associations to prioritise housing moves for young people who were victims of serious violence.**

G. The Role of the Health Sector

Chaired by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Objectives

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care chaired a discussion aimed at:

- identifying key mechanisms for intervention from the health sector with those most vulnerable to serious youth violence;
- maximising the potential of expanded and improved mental health services for people whose mental health may have been impacted – responding to the impact of gang violence on individuals and communities; and
- ensuring a multi-agency approach, including improved cross-system data sharing.



Discussion

The Health Secretary opened the discussion by stressing the importance of a multi-agency approach to tackling serious violence, learning the lessons from the models implemented in places like Cardiff and Glasgow.

Discussion focused on three key areas for the health sector: how data could be used effectively whilst maintaining the trust of individuals; the importance of moments for intervention; and, support for those with mental health and other needs.

Attendees agreed on the importance of data gathering and sharing – this information could be critical to targeting interventions and identifying patterns. It was important, for example, that NHS Trusts upheld their commitment to record attendance at Accident and Emergency departments as a result of violence. Data should be shared with sensitivity, making sure that personal data is used and stored appropriately.

“The NHS has a really important role to play in both supporting the victims of knife crime, but also ensuring that with other partners such as local government, we are able to do things to prevent knife crime and help those, particularly young people, who may be getting involved in knife crime.”

Prof Stephen Powis, NHS England

Attendees considered that effective action at moments of intervention, often during interactions with the healthcare system, could make a huge difference to the lives of vulnerable young people. Attendees agreed that identifying and using these moments presents challenges, with success maximised by good timing and trusted relationships involving local partners.

“There’s a really powerful message today that just everybody has a really important role to play in reducing serious violence and how we can all come together as agencies, charities and within communities in particular at a really local level, to make a really big difference to those who are the most vulnerable in our society. We’ve seen too many young people die in recent months from the scourge of knife crime, and right across government we feel so strongly about tackling this problem - and tackling it as root causes, not just addressing each individual act. And the way to do this is a public health approach, meaning that different parts of government, different agencies - actually the whole of society comes together to tackle the problem.”

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Many attendees raised the issue of mental health and how support in this respect was critical to tackling serious violence and those affected by it. The group agreed that multi-agency working would be essential in making sure that vulnerable young people get the mental health support that they need, when they need it. In addition, participants talked about how good mental health provision needed to be accessible and funded in the long-term, ensuring smooth transitions from child to adult mental health provision.



“What I found really useful is the commitment from the key players that were sitting around the table around how much they realise they have to use a community-based model. Communities are one of the keys around challenging serious violence, because communities know the nuances, they know what their community needs, and having community voices heard in these forums is really important.”

Anthony Scott, Team Leader, Redthread

Next Steps

- **NHS England has written to all trusts to remind them of their responsibilities to record and share data on attendance in accident and emergency departments as a result of violence – and to provide reassurance that this can be done in compliance with data protection laws.**
- **The Government has committed to improve data sharing to address the data gaps in primary and emergency care, including consideration of a further compliance audit.**
- **The Government will consider how to work more effectively with Community Safety Partnerships, and to formalise the link between GPs and the social prescribing model.**
- **The Government will evaluate the value for money of Violence Reduction Nurses.**
- **The Government will look at options for scaling up projects that enable interventions at a teachable moment, such as those run by Redthread and the St Giles Trust.**

H. Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

Chaired by the Rt Hon David Gauke MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Objectives

The Secretary of State for Justice chaired a discussion aimed at:

- improving join-up across the criminal justice system to deliver innovative approaches that reduce reoffending, recognising that many children and young people in custody have also been victims of crime;
- developing serious violence support arrangements for victims and witnesses; and
- deterring serious youth violence through swift, visible and effective justice.



Discussion

The Justice Secretary chaired a discussion on the role of Government in breaking the cycle of reoffending. He opened the discussion by stating that serious violence could only be defeated if the root causes were tackled. He noted that although good work was already being done, more was needed and every opportunity should be taken to stop serious violence.

There was agreement that early intervention was the key to reducing crime. Attendees talked about the importance of identifying those at risk of offending, those who have been victims and those who are witnesses and families of victims, to provide them with the necessary support. Attendees agreed that agencies must work together to identify vulnerable individuals and to integrate mental health services, in particular with the criminal justice system.

“It’s vitally important that we try to prevent as many young people as possible entering into the criminal justice system. We know that knife crime is bringing to an end promising lives and we’ve got to do everything we can to ensure that we get government agencies, the voluntary sector, all bodies working together to deliver a cultural shift that drives people away from criminal activity, saves lives and ensures that as many people as possible can fulfil their potential.”

Rt Hon David Gauke MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Attendees discussed the importance of strong relationships between the police and other authorities, and shared examples of schemes that aimed to support this further. Some participants pointed to the role of neighbourhood policing in building trust, and of the benefits brought when individuals who had been through the criminal justice system worked in authority positions. However, criminal records often prevented this; attendees were concerned that young people were being denied the chance to prove they have changed and could re-enter society, which could then lead to reoffending.

Attendees agreed that more severe sentencing did not appear to have a deterrent effect - young people typically did not anticipate being caught, or were acting in the moment and were not considering subsequent consequences. Attendees reflected that decisions around sentencing reform must be considered in balance with a wider public debate about longer sentences for certain crimes. Attendees talked about the fact that poverty is thought to be a key driver of crime, and often young people resort to crime to provide short-term financial relief. It was suggested that this could be tackled through changes which provide better opportunities for gainful employment and better long-term prospects.

Attendees noted that voluntary organisations are well placed to help young people but faced barriers. Attendees recommended that voluntary organisations needed additional resources, help to access young people in custody, and access to training on the often complex social and mental health issues they deal with.



“What I really enjoyed about the summit today is that it wasn’t all about looking at enforcement as the solution or increasing sentences as the solution, but a real understanding that the children who are carrying weapons have often been victims themselves. It was great that there was a consensus across the room that it’s not just one department’s issue, it’s a cross-governmental department issue.”

C J Burge, St Giles Trust

Next Steps

- **The Government will make clear, as part of the review of the Victims’ Code announced in the Victims Strategy, that those psychologically affected after witnessing acts of serious violence, have the same entitlement to access victim support services as those who suffer physical injuries.**
- **The Government has committed to extending the Homicide Service to support witnesses directly affected by murder or manslaughter in London and will assess this before decisions are taken on extending this support beyond London and to others affected by serious violence.**
- **The Government will pilot specialist training for staff at Young Offender Institutions, to support young people in custody who have previously been victims of serious violence and help direct them to support services.**
- **The Government will engage with criminal justice system partners on rolling out the work of the London Violent Crime Taskforce on swifter justice, which seeks to progress appropriate cases more quickly through the system.**

4. List of Attendees

Opening session

- Rt Hon Theresa May MP – Prime Minister (Chair)
- Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP – Home Secretary
- Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP – Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Rt Hon David Gauke MP – Secretary of State for Justice
- Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP – Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
- Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP – Secretary of State for Education
- Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP – Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP – Minister for Policing and the Fire Service
- Victoria Atkins MP – Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability
- Robert Buckland MP – Solicitor General
- Sir Mark Sedwill – Cabinet Secretary
- Professor Mark Bellis – Director of Policy, Research and International Development, Public Health Wales
- Rt Hon Andy Burnham – Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Mark Burns-Williamson OBE – Chair, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
- Cressida Dick CBE QPM – Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police
- Naomi Hulston – Chief Operating Officer, Catch 22
- Sarah Jones MP – Member of Parliament for Croydon Central, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime
- Rt Hon Sadiq Khan – Mayor of London
- Rt Hon David Lammy MP – Member of Parliament for Tottenham
- David Lloyd – Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire
- Anne Longfield OBE – Children's Commissioner
- Professor Jens Ludwig – University of Chicago and Crime Lab
- Baroness Newlove – Victims Commissioner
- Lynne Owens CBE QPM – Director-General of the National Crime Agency
- Busayo Oyedoyin – Former Member of Youth Parliament for Hackney
- John Poyton – CEO, Redthread
- Roy Sefa-Attakora – Youth Justice Board
- Professor Jonathan Shepherd – Cardiff University Violence Research Group
- Amanda Spielman – HM Chief Inspector, Ofsted
- Simon Stevens – CEO, NHS England
- Andy Street CBE – Mayor of the West Midlands
- Chuka Umunna MP – Member of Parliament for Streatham
- Cllr Richard Watts – Local Government Association, Leader of Islington Council
- Simon Woolley – Chair, Race Disparity Audit Advisory Group

Best practice in law enforcement

- Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP – Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Chair)
- Robert Buckland MP – Solicitor General
- John Apter – Chair of the Police Federation
- Professor Fiona Brookman – Professor of Criminology and Director of the Centre for Criminology at the University of South Wales
- Mark Burns-Williamson OBE – Chair, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
- Mike Cunningham QPM – CEO, College of Policing
- Marhawit Ghebre – Education and Youth Team, Greater London Authority
- Patrick Green – CEO, Ben Kinsella Trust
- Mark Hallas OBE – CEO, Crimestoppers
- Martin Hewitt – Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council
- Sir Stephen House – Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service
- Matt Jukes – Chief Constable, South Wales
- Sophie Linden - Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, London
- David Lloyd – Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire
- Professor Jens Ludwig - University of Chicago and Crime Lab
- Tola Munro – President of the Black Police Association
- Kunle Olulde – CEO, Voice4change
- Lynne Owens CBE QPM – Director General, National Crime Agency
- Theo Sergiou – Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Enfield
- Professor Jonathan Shepherd – Cardiff University Violence Research Group
- Stephen Watson – Chief Constable, South Yorkshire
- Sir Tom Winsor – HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

The role of education

- Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP – Secretary of State for Education (Chair)
- Duncan Ball – NPCC Lead for Gangs, County Lines and Knives
- Geoff Barton – General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders
- John Bradshaw – Head teacher, London East Alternative Provision
- Sir Kevan Collins – CEO, Education Endowment Foundation
- Sarah Dove – President, PRUsAP
- Nicky Hill – Interim CEO, Street Doctors
- David Jamieson – Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands
- Anne Longfield OBE – Children's Commissioner
- Dr Shaid Mahmood – Chief Officer for Communities, Leeds City Council
- Neil Miley – Executive Principal, Dixons Kings Academy, Liverpool/Bradford
- Jess Oghenegweke – Anti-Bullying Project Coordinator at Diana Award and Social Mobility Commissioner
- Elroy Palmer MBE – St Giles Trust
- Dr Michael Sanders – Executive Director, What Works Centre for Children's Social Care
- Amanda Spielman – HM Chief Inspector, Ofsted
- Isabelle Trowler – Chief Social Worker
- Ed Vainker – Co-founder and executive principal of Reach Academy Feltham
- Cllr Richard Watts – Local Government Association, Leader of Islington Council

Investing in communities

- Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP – Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Chair)
- Adam Abdullah – Young Mayor of Lewisham
- Mohamed Ali – Young representative of the Somali community
- Dawn Austwick – CEO, National Lottery Community Fund
- Ashfaque Chowdhury – Chairman, Association of Muslim Schools UK
- James Cleverly MP – Member of Parliament for Braintree
- Nick Gardham – CEO, Company of Community Organisers
- Rory Geoghegan – Centre for Social Justice
- Stephen Hayward-Cripps – CEO, Neighbourhood Watch
- Baroness Hughes of Stretford – Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime and Fire, Greater Manchester
- Lorraine Jones – Pastor and Founder, Dwaynamics
- Rt Hon Sadiq Khan – Mayor of London
- Adam Matan – Managing Director of the Anti-Tribalism Movement
- Barry Mizen MBE – For Jimmy
- Richard Reddie – Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
- John Robins – Temporary Chief Constable, West Yorkshire
- Andrea Watts – Executive Director, Sefton Council; Representative of Supporting Families Against Youth Crime

Positive activities for young people

- Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP – Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Chair)
- Mims Davies MP – Minister for Sport and Civil Society
- Nadhim Zahawi MP – Minister for Children and Families
- Rashid Bhayat – Positive Youth Foundation, Coventry
- Rokhsana Fiaz – Mayor, Newham
- Vicky Foxcroft MP – Member of Parliament for Lewisham Deptford
- Darren Henley – CEO, Arts Council England
- Jane Kennedy – Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside
- Kathryn Morley – CEO, Onside Youth Zones
- Busayo Oyedoyin – Former Member of Youth Parliament for Hackney
- Andy Parrott – Head of Planning and Community, Premier League
- Olivia Pinkney – NPCC lead for Children and Young People
- Nick Pontefract – COO, Sport England
- Andy Ratcliffe – Impetus Private Equity Foundation / Youth Endowment Fund
- Roy Sefa-Attakora – Youth Justice Board
- Anna Smee – UK Youth
- Charlie Taylor – Chair, Youth Justice Board
- Stuart Worden – Principal of the Brit School

Creating opportunities for young people

- Victoria Atkins MP – Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability (Chair)
- Kelly Tolhurst MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility
- Saeed Atcha – CEO of Xplode magazine and Social Mobility Commissioner
- Allison Bartlett – Corporate Relations Director & Head of External Affairs, McDonalds
- Jeremy Crook – Black Training and Enterprise Group
- Paul Donlevey – Head of Security, McDonalds
- Alveena Malik – One Million Mentors
- Maryanne Matthews – CEO, EY Foundation
- Samira-Caterina Monteleone – Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Brent
- Joe Montgomery – Chair, Youth Futures Foundation
- Nims Obunge – Pastor and CEO, the Peace Alliance
- Peter Olawaye – Programme Lead, EY Foundation
- David Skelton – Google
- Nick Stace – CEO, Prince's Trust
- Andy Street – Mayor of the West Midlands
- Chris Whitfield – COO, Co-op Retail
- Simon Woolley – Chair, Race Disparity Audit Advisory Group

The role of the health sector

- Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP – Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Chair)
- Jackie Doyle-Price MP – Minister for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention
- Duncan Bew – Clinical Director for Trauma and Acute Surgery at Kings College Hospital, London
- Dame Carol Black – Independent Review on Drugs Misuse
- John Crichton – Consultant Psychiatrist, Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland
- Dr Simon Eccles – Chief Information Officer for Health and Care, NHS
- Ian Hudspeth – Chairman, LGA Community Wellbeing Board
- Sarah Jones MP - Member of Parliament for Croydon Central
- Heather Lawrence – Chair, London Ambulance Trust
- Dr Steve Mowle – Hon Treasurer of the Royal College of General Practice
- Claire Murdoch – CEO, Central and NW London NHS Trust
- Rosanna O'Connor – Director of Drugs, Alcohol and Violence, Public Health England
- Professor Steve Powis – National Medical Director, NHS
- John Poyton – CEO, Redthread
- Anthony Scott – Team Leader, Redthread
- Professor Jonathan Shepherd – Founder of Cardiff University Violence Research Group
- Emma Thomas – Young Minds
- Ciya Vyas – Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Hounslow

Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

- Rt Hon David Gauke MP – Secretary of State for Justice (Chair)
- Ed Argar MP – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice
- Athian Akec – Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Camden
- Colin Allars – CEO, Youth Justice Board
- Emma Arbuthnot – Chief Magistrate
- Sarah Boycott – Assistant Chief Constable, West Midlands Police
- CJ Burge – St Giles Trust
- Mark Burns-Williamson – Chair of the APCC and Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
- Whitney Clark – Youth Justice Board
- Sonia Crozier – Chief Probation Officer
- Peter Dawson – CEO, Prison Reform Trust
- Nick Ephgrave – Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service
- Diana Fawcett – CEO, Victims Support
- Sue Hemming – Director of Legal Services, Crown Prosecution Service
- Ian Hopkins QPM – Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police
- Sir Brian Leveson – President of the Queen's Bench Division
- Sophie Linden – Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, London
- Temi Mwale – The 4Front Project
- Baroness Newlove – Victims Commissioner
- Sian Rees – Policy Lead for Youth Justice and Young Adults South Wales Police
- Jackie Sebire – NPCC Lead for Serious Violence
- Caroline Twitchett – NHS Offender Health

5. Written Ministerial Statement on the Serious Youth Violence Summit

On behalf of the Government, the Home Secretary tabled a Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 8 April 2019 to update on the proceedings and outcomes arising from the Summit.

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Government is deeply concerned about the recent rise in serious violence, particularly knife crime, which is robbing too many children and young people of their futures. This is a challenge that affects all of society, and agencies must come together in a co-ordinated, wide-reaching and long-term effort.

In order to ensure the strongest possible response, the Prime Minister hosted a Serious Youth Violence Summit at 10 Downing Street, with the support of the Home Secretary, from 1 to 4 April. The central aim of the Summit was to ensure a shared understanding and commitment to a multi-agency, public health approach to tackling knife crime and serious violence more generally.

This approach involves partners across different sectors – such as education, health, social services, offender management services, housing, youth and victim services, working closely with community and faith leaders, and the voluntary and charitable sectors – taking joint action to address the underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.

The Prime Minister opened the Summit by chairing a roundtable meeting with a range of experts, representatives and practitioners from key sectors, community leaders, young people, and cross-party politicians. Alongside the Prime Minister, both I and other senior Ministers discussed with these experts what more can be done to tackle recent rises in serious violence. This was followed by a series of themed sessions chaired by Secretaries of State and Ministers during the week, aimed at harnessing expert knowledge and creating the conditions to boost joint working across sectors and organisations. I will place a full list of the attendees – of whom there were well over 100 over the course of the week – in the Libraries of the House.

The full programme of thematic sessions, which took place over the course of the Summit, included:

- Best practice in law enforcement, chaired by the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service;
- The role of education, chaired by the Secretary of State for Education;
- Investing in Communities, chaired by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government;

- Positive activities for young people, by chaired by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport;
- Creating opportunities for young people, chaired by the Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability;
- The role of the Health Sector, chaired by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care;
- Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System, chaired by the Secretary of State for Justice.

Coinciding with this Summit:

- I announced that Impetus, in partnership with the Early Intervention Foundation and Social Investment Business, will run the new Youth Endowment Fund, which will support interventions with children and young people at risk of involvement in crime and violence, based on £200 million of new Government funding;
- The Government announced £100 million additional funding in 2019/20 to tackle serious violence, including £80m of new funding from the Treasury. This will allow police to swiftly crack-down on knife crime on the areas of the country most affected by knife crime and will also allow for investment in Violence Reduction Units;
- That I will be making it simpler for the police in the seven forces particularly affected by violent crime, to use section 60 (area-wide) stop and search powers where they reasonably believe that an incident involving serious violence may occur. This pilot will be for up to a year, with a review after six months – after which we will make decisions on next steps. The College of Policing will also work alongside forces to create new guidelines on how best the police can engage with communities on the use of stop and search;
- I launched a public consultation on a new legal duty to ensure that public bodies work together to protect young people at risk of becoming involved in knife crime. This would underpin the multi-agency approach already being driven by the Serious Violence Strategy, which stresses the importance of early intervention to tackle the root causes of violent crime. Similar approaches have been used in Scotland and Wales, and are designed to ensure that every part of the system is supporting young people with targeted interventions before they commit violence or are groomed by gangs.

These announcements build on the significant progress we have made in delivering the commitments set out in the Serious Violence Strategy published in April 2018. These include: the Early Intervention Youth Fund of £22 million, through which the Home Office is already supporting 29 projects in England and Wales; the new National County Lines Co-ordination Centre; an anti-knife crime Community Fund which provided £1.5 million in 2018/19 to support 68 local projects to tackle knife crime; and a national knife crime media campaign – #knifefree – to raise young people's awareness of the consequences of knife crime; and the establishment of the Serious Violence Taskforce, which I chair and which is attended by Members of Parliament, Ministers, senior police officers, representatives of agencies in the public and voluntary sectors and others, to drive action across a number of fronts.

The Summit has reinforced my view, shared across Government that there is not one single solution to rising levels of serious violence, and that coordinated action is needed

across a number of fronts. Attendees agreed on the need to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence and rigorous evaluation of interventions. To do this, we must bring together information, data and intelligence and encourage organisations and individuals to work in concert rather than in isolation, focusing on those identified as being most vulnerable to involvement in serious violent crime. Attendees identified many examples of good practice taking place in local areas and communities, and there was consensus on the importance of a shared approach to preventing and tackling serious violence.

In particular, the Summit has already enabled the following outcomes:

- The creation of a new Ministerial Taskforce, chaired by the Prime Minister, to drive cross-government action. This will be supported by a new, dedicated, serious violence team in the Cabinet Office to support cross-departmental coordination.
- A commitment to better data collection and sharing of appropriate data between the healthcare sector and other key organisations in order to protect children, and to make it easier for health professionals to play an enhanced role in reducing violence. This will be accompanied by the roll-out of mental health support teams based in and around schools and education settings, to help vulnerable children within their community, some of which will be in areas most affected by knife crime. The teams will be available to support children directly or indirectly affected by knife crime as part of the school or college response.
- An expansion of the partnership with the Premier League to increase one of its flagship community programmes, Premier League Kicks, which uses football to inspire young people to develop their potential and build stronger, safer communities. Sport England, which invests more than £10 million in projects that use sport to support crime reduction, has also pledged to increase investment in sport and physical activity for children in hot spot areas.
- An extension of the support provided by the National Homicide Service to witnesses, as part of a raft of new measures, which will focus on supporting victims and witnesses of violent crime and directing youth offenders away from further violence. These include: extending emotional, practical, trauma and counselling support beyond victims to now include those who witness murder or manslaughter in London; specialist training for staff at youth offender institutions to spot signs of past abuse, exploitation or serious violence experienced by the youths in custody and help direct them to support services; and reviewing the Victims' Code, which sets out what services victims are entitled to receive, to make it clearer what support witnesses of serious violent crime can access.

These deliverables represent the first step of an increased programme of work across Government – and beyond – to tackle serious youth violence. Once the Ministerial Taskforce has been established, it will agree a plan of action and then oversee its implementation going forward. We will continue to keep Parliament updated. The Summit demonstrates the commitment from the Prime Minister, myself and Ministers across Government, setting a clear direction and galvanising action to tackle serious violence. Working together, this new approach will ensure we meet the scourge of youth violence head on, so that more families are spared the unimaginable suffering that has already been endured by so many.

