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What is the Serious Violence Duty?

The Government introduced the Duty through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. This places a duty on specified authorities to plan and collaborate to prevent and tackle serious violence in their local area. It requires them to work together, using existing partnerships where possible, to share information and take effective coordinated action with their local communities.

Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act has also been amended to ensure Community Safety Partnerships have the prevention and reduction of serious violence as an explicit priority in their strategies.

The Duty starts on 31 January 2023. Specified authorities have 12 months to deliver on mandatory requirements.

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Why is it being introduced?

The Duty is one part of the current Government's programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence. Other parts include providing funding for our local Violence Reduction Network (VRN) and Leicestershire Police's GRIP funding.

Serious violence has far-reaching, devastating impacts on victims and communities. It's important that all parts of the system collaborate and use data, insights and evidence to design and implement a local response which tackles both the causes and consequences of serious violence. The Duty places a requirement on specified authorities to do this.

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Who are the specified authorities?

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

The legislation also identifies several 'relevant authorities' (educational, prison and/or youth custody authorities) with which the specified authorities must consult with when developing the local strategy (and relevant authorities must collaborate if requested to do so).

Police and Crime Commissioners are not subject to the Duty but have the authority to take a convening role, support specified authorities, distribute funding and monitor progress.

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Find out more

For more information and/or support you can get in touch with the VRN Team at vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk or find the full statutory guidance and further information here:

[Full Statutory Guidance for Responsible Authorities](#)

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What is happening locally?

Local partners and communities are part of our local Violence Reduction Network (VRN) which has taken a public health approach to preventing public place violence since 2019. Specified authorities have agreed that the VRN and the local Strategic Partnership Board will be the local partnership model for discharging the Duty and the local definition will extend to include serious violence within the context of domestic abuse and sexual violence. Community Safety Partnerships will compliment this by ensuring that there are also locality-based responses in place. Each specified and relevant authority will be strengthening their organisation's delivery of the Duty whilst also contributing to the partnership's SNA and Strategy.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will also draw down additional funding to support partners to deliver the mandatory products and wider requirements of the new Duty.

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What will the Duty involve?

Local areas are encouraged to take a 'public health approach'. This means using data and insights to understand serious violence and its causes locally with a commitment to identifying the populations most impacted and reducing these inequalities. It also requires high levels of collaboration with communities and other partners and a focus on generating short and longer-term solutions which draw on the evidence of effectiveness.

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

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What are the requirements?

Local areas are expected to confirm the partnership arrangements through which they intend to deliver the Duty. They are also expected to agree a local definition of serious violence.

Specified authorities are responsible for producing two mandatory products by 31 January 2024:

- A Strategic Needs Assessment drawing on multi-agency data and insights to identify the extent, nature and causes of serious violence locally. This should then inform:
- A Local Strategy which is publicly shared and outlines planned activity to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The Strategy has to be implemented and reviewed on an annual basis.

