

KNIFE CRIME IN BRENT MEMBERS TASK GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. CONTEXT

In London, the total number of offences involving knife crime has increased by 4%, and in the last year in Brent, it increased by 18% to 755 knife crime offences. This was the 3rd highest level of knife crime of the 32 London boroughs.

Knife crime is not only an offence; it impacts on the health of victims, and their families and peers. The cost to the NHS of each stabbing is upwards of £7,200.

Violence acts like an epidemic disease, and can be tackled using a multi-agency public health approach. This involves treating violence as a preventable public health issue, using data and analysis to identify causes and focusing on prevention through multi-agency systemic approaches.

In Brent there are a number of interventions already in place for older children and teenagers, while early intervention programmes for younger children are currently being developed.

B. OBJECTIVES

The aim of the task group is gain a better understanding of knife crime in Brent and how interventions can reduce knife crime, and which ones will work locally. With this knowledge the task group can make recommendations that will help in reducing rates and mitigate negative impacts on Brent residents.

According to the constitution and the 2006 Police and Justice Act the group can make recommendations to the Community Safety Partnership through Full Council when discharging their duties as the Crime and Disorder Committee.

The task group will:

- Review the links between knife crime and gangs in Brent
- Review partnership working arrangements
- Review what can be done locally to complement the wider London public health approach, including:
 - The use of RedThread and other violence interrupter schemes
 - Street based interventions
 - Education and employment opportunities for ex-offenders
 - Using education for nurturing children to prevent crime
 - Early intervention schemes for different ages, including younger children

C. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Task group will report to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, and keep other relevant committees informed as appropriate.

There should be at least three members present at each meeting.

The task group will meet once a month, from January 2019, until the final report is presented at the April scrutiny meeting.

D. MEMBERSHIP

1. Cllr. Sandra Kabir (Chair)
2. Cllr. Erica Gbajumo
3. Cllr. Robert Johnson
4. Cllr. Elliot Chappell
5. Cllr. Thomas Stephens

Richard Harrington – Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer

Other key stakeholders would be invited as appropriate which will include:

1. Representative from the MET
2. Representative from the CCG
3. Representative from the LNWH
4. Representative from St Giles