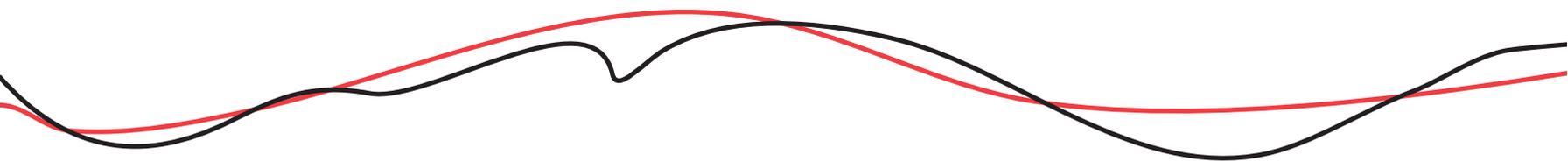


# VIOLENCE

**reduction unit strategic plan  
sets out our vision for the areas we need  
to work in, to support our quest to improve  
the quality of life for people in Scotland by  
reducing violence in our society.**

**There are two strands to our plan:**



## **ENFORCEMENT**

We will strive to contain and manage the problem of violence as it manifests itself on our streets and within premises using traditional and innovative enforcement techniques.



## **SUSTAINABLE REDUCTION IN VIOLENCE**

We are asking for long-term commitment from all partners and communities to develop and implement policies that will bring about attitudinal change and deliver a **permanent** and **sustainable** reduction in violence.

This strategic plan is intended to serve as a framework for securing support and approval and to instigate detailed planning.

By explaining our aspirations for Scotland, we hope to encourage and motivate others to become involved in making our country a place where violence is considered an aberration, where children, young people and adults no longer face the challenges that interpersonal violence presents in 2007.

This plan will change over time as our aspirations become greater and as more policy makers and service providers sign up to making contributions both great and small.

We hope the people in Scotland will look back in 10 years and reflect on how much things have changed, how many people have benefited from the effort that everyone will put in today, and every day, for the next decade.

The challenge of reducing violence may seem daunting, but we as a country have faced more difficult challenges. Changing the way we interact and build relationships with each other is key to delivering a reduction in

**weapon-  
carrying  
youth-  
violence  
suicide  
violence-  
against-  
children  
gangs  
interpersonal  
-violence  
bullying  
domestic-  
violence.**

Scotland has faced some uncomfortable truths over the past few years about the unacceptable level of violence in our country: despite the fact that 42% of the prison population are incarcerated for non-sexual violent crime, our violence level has continued unabated.

The World Health Organisation report on violence (2002) highlights Scotland as having a homicide rate of 5.3 per 100,000 population in males aged between **10-29**, with a national rate of homicide of 3.1 per 100,000. This is similar to Argentina, Costa Rica and Lithuania. The rate in England and Wales for the same age group is 1.0 per 100,000.

The Violence Reduction Unit was set up in 2005 to identify best practice in reducing violence in Strathclyde. In 2006, the unit took on a national role. We believe that with concerted effort Scotland can discard its violent reputation and we can create a society where our children and young people can live without fear of assault and where our murder rate is no longer a source of national shame.

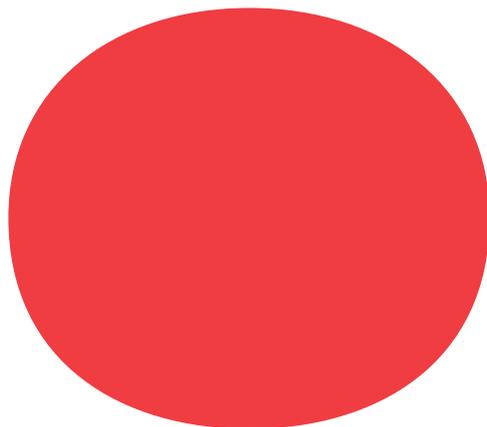
We believe that approaching violence as a Public Health problem will help to deliver sustainable reductions in violence in Scotland.

By using a health model, we treat violence as though it were a disease that can infect, spread and ultimately lead to death and disability. However, it is not within the gift of the police alone to deliver a sustainable reduction in violence - it will require the commitment of a range of agencies and of the people of Scotland themselves to prevent the loss of life and permanent physical and psychological damage that violence wreaks in our country.

## **THIS STRATEGIC PLAN OUTLINES OUR AIMS IN SIX AREAS:**

- 1 Violence Reduction as a NATIONAL PRIORITY**
- 2 ENFORCEMENT**
- 3 ATTITUDINAL CHANGE**
- 4 PRIMARY PREVENTION** - seeking to prevent the onset of violence, or to change behaviour so that violence is prevented from developing.
- 5 SECONDARY PREVENTION** - to halt the progression of violence once it is established - this is achieved by early detection or early diagnosis followed by prompt, effective treatment.
- 6 TERTIARY PREVENTION** - the rehabilitation of people with an established violent behaviour or affected as a victim.

## OUR PROGRESS



**2005**  
**Unit set up**

**2006**  
**Safer Scotland**  
**Campaign**

**2007**  
**Establishing VR in**  
**community plans**

**2010**  
**Joint plan created**

### **2005**

- The VRU was established by Chief Constable Willie Rae to address Violence in Strathclyde.
- Co-ordinated operations on knife carrying commence.
- Custody processes changed within Strathclyde to DNA and fingerprint all knife carriers.

### **2006**

- A year-long campaign runs across Scotland to tackle violence.
- Knife Amnesty.
- Ad campaign to tackle knife carrying.
- Injury surveillance commenced in two hospitals.
- Seminars to engage strategic leaders from organisations across Scotland.
- VRU becomes National Unit.
- Legislation and Lord Advocate's Guidelines on knife carrying changed and policy implemented across Scotland.
- Violence becomes high priority in Force and Scottish police control strategies.
- Violence Reduction Team set up in Scottish Executive to influence policy and practice.
- Cross Departmental Violence Working Group established within Scottish Executive.
- Proceeds of crime money given to 14 local authorities to tackle violence.

### **2007**

- VRU hosts World Health Organisation global conference on Violence at Tulliallan in July.
- Violence Reduction appears on manifestos of political parties in Scottish elections.
- Safer Scotland Campaign continues through 2007/08.
- Injury Surveillance piloted across Lanarkshire Health Board area.
- Violence Counselling begins in hospitals in Glasgow.
- VRU and VRT develop Scottish Violence Reduction plan with Scottish Executive.
- Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Scotland joins WHO Violence Prevention Alliance as executive policy lead.
- Planning commences for city level parenting support with director of public health.
- Head of VRU presents violence reduction agenda to Home Secretary.

## **VIOLENCE REDUCTION AS NATIONAL PRIORITY**

We will work to put Scotland at the forefront of Violence Reduction through establishing a cross-cutting Scottish Violence Reduction Plan with the Scottish Executive which delivers across all policy areas and focuses in particular on Health, Education, Transport and Criminal Justice.

### **What we plan to do**

#### **By 2017**

- To be recognised worldwide as a leader in adopting and implementing a collaborative approach to reducing violence.

#### **By 2010**

- To have an agreed long-term plan of action covering the areas of Health, Education, Transport and Justice which clearly defines the planned activities and outcomes.

#### **By 2008**

- To have violence prevention as an aim within the national plan for Public Health in Scotland.
- To assist each Community Safety Partnership in Scotland in drafting a plan of action on reducing violence within their area with measures to evaluate progress.
- Establish dedicated funding for Violence Reduction within Community Safety Partnerships.
- Through the Violence Working Group at the Scottish Executive, ensure that Violence Reduction is considered in appropriate policies across the range of government departments.
- To drive and inform research on violence in Scotland to identify risk, and protective factors which can be used to prevent violence occurring.
- To work with Criminal Justice Authorities in the development of plans to tackle violent offenders.

### **Violence Reduction 10 Year Plan**

## ENFORCEMENT

We recognise that although prevention measures are core to delivering reduction in violent crime, intelligence-led practices in enforcement and addressing the behaviour of those who perpetrate violence in our society are crucial to achieving reduction in the short term. We will strive to be innovative and critical in relation to evaluation of our practices, in order to deliver a public service that aims to fulfil the expectations of the people of Scotland.

### What we plan to do

#### By 2017

- To have established a policing ethos which has adopted the public health approach to reducing violence, and that is evident in all the police strategic plans.
- To have sustained decrease in the 'real number' of individuals involved in violence as a victim or offender.

#### By 2010

- Engage with partners to ensure uniform working practices in relation to risk management of violent offenders across Scotland.
- To have uniform gathering of data across forces around the role of alcohol, drugs and weapons used in violence offences.
- To evidence the impact of enforcement on violent crime through a range of performance measures.
- Results from injury surveillance will form part of the performance measure on reducing violence.
- To have reduced incidence of knife related assaults.

#### By 2008

- Through ACPOS, to have agreed a plan of enforcement for five years following conclusion of 2007/08 Anti-Violence Campaign.
- To have evidence of increased recording of violent crime through implementing measures to make crime reporting easier.
- To have a range of measures to support unco-operative victims to report their crime.
- To develop robust test purchase operations to tackle the selling of alcohol and knives to underage persons.
- To encourage debate around the 'consumption of alcohol' prior to an offence being considered as an aggravating factor in violent crimes.
- To have developed a violence reduction toolkit for officers and partners to aid the co-ordinated delivery of local services to reduce violence.
- To establish data sharing of police information with other agencies to enable violence reduction.
- To initiate a comprehensive murder database which encompasses and examines the opportunities for prevention across Scotland.
- To have outlined the data required from each force in Scotland to develop a national violence assessment, identify intelligence gaps and determine the intelligence requirement.

## **ATTITUDINAL CHANGE**

Violence has become a normal part of life in some areas in Scotland. We will work to change the cultural norms of professionals and communities in relation to the unacceptability of violence in our society.

### **What we plan to do**

#### **By 2017**

- To have sustained reduction in injuries and deaths resulting from violent behaviour.
- To have narrowed the gap between reported crime and actual levels of violence as a measure of community confidence.

#### **By 2010**

- To have sustained multimedia public health campaigns aimed at changing cultural norms around interpersonal violence.
- To have reduced the demand for and carrying of knives.
- To have decreased the tolerance of violence in communities.

#### **By 2008**

- To have developed a Violence Reduction communication campaign by 2008.
- To take every opportunity to engage and develop literature around anti-violence and the role of parenting in prevention.
- Expand youth engagement in anti-violence activity through 2007/08.
- Develop Community Activism Strategy around major crime to increase reporting and community engagement.
- To provide education and support networks to agencies and professionals from a wide range of backgrounds to ensure a common base of knowledge and skills around violence prevention and to promote evidence-based practice.
- To evaluate community attitudes to violence through local authority community engagement surveys.

**Violence Reduction 10 Year Plan**

## PRIMARY PREVENTION

We aim to **support** the development of a range of primary prevention programmes that inhibit violent behaviour. The supporting of parents and children during early years is critical to reducing violence in the long term.

### What we plan to do

#### By 2017

- To have national policy and local delivery of universal and specialist support programmes around parenting and early years.
- To embed injury surveillance data to drive policy and practice on reducing violence.

#### By 2010

- To have established national injury surveillance and data sharing of injury data and intelligence with other agencies to prevent violence.
- To have input on violence prevention contained within the curriculum of early years, primary and secondary education.
- Citywide evaluation of parenting and early years support.

#### By 2008

- To have established injury surveillance and data sharing in a Health Board area to aid violence prevention.
- To highlight the fundamental role of parenting and early years programmes in preventing violence, strengthening the bond to school, raising achievement and improving self esteem.
- To work through the Violence Reduction Team and the Scottish Executive to support the development of National Parenting and early years policy.
- To have developed a range of teaching materials focused around Violence Reduction.
- To gain commitment for a citywide parenting and early years support pilot.
- To identify and communicate best practice in the primary prevention of violence.
- To work with and encourage safe city centre initiatives to make changes to the built environment to prevent violence occurring.

## SECONDARY PREVENTION

We aim to develop and ‘scale up’ nationally a range of prevention programmes to divert those at risk of developing violent behaviour and becoming a victim, with the aim of reducing the numbers of young people becoming affected by violence in the long term.

### What we plan to do

#### By 2017

- To have joint funding for schools based officers built into spending plans for councils and police forces.
- To have reduced the impact of youth gangs on communities in Scotland.

#### By 2010

- To have established a highly trained cadre of schools based officers around Scotland involved in Violence Prevention in primary and secondary schools.
- To have a range of social development programmes available to reduce aggressive behaviour and improve social skills for those in the ‘at risk’ group.

#### By 2008

- To have developed a recruitment and training framework for schools based police officers in Scotland.
- To have evaluated the schools based officers and their role in the community.
- To have a national strategy to tackle youth gangs involved in violence and territoriality in Scotland, incorporating both enforcement and roots out of gangs interventions.
- To work with voluntary and faith groups in developing and supporting anti-violence activity.
- In conjunction with Directors of Education, to have agreed a policy for introduction of school based officers.
- To have developed a range of teaching materials on violence prevention aimed at the most at risk groups.
- To have evaluated the Scottish pilot of the Danish model – ‘Schools, Social Work, Police and Community (SSPC)’ – in diverting those at risk from offending or becoming a victim.
- To develop in conjunction with our partners a long-term strategy for youth engagement and diversion around violence prevention.
- To utilise injury surveillance data on young people to inform youth engagement and intervention.
- To support the work of health visitors in home visits to prevent violence and reduce abuse.
- To engage with agencies dealing with at risk children and youths to share best practice in addressing those individuals who face challenges with violent behaviour.

## TERTIARY PREVENTION

To identify and develop a range of services and interventions for perpetrators and victims of violence which can be delivered in a wide range of settings and circumstances to ensure maximum use of the 'teachable moment' within an individual's life, with the aim of reducing violent behaviour, recidivism and victimisation.

### What we plan to do

#### By 2017

- We will work with our partners to make violence interventions with victims and offenders an integral part of the treatment programme.

#### By 2010

- Work with Scottish Prison Service and other agencies to broaden the range of violence prevention and parenting programmes in custodial settings.
- To encourage the establishment of groups in the community to mentor and support those seeking to change their behaviour.
- To work with our partners to develop anti-violence and parenting programmes for delivery within a community court setting.
- To increase reporting of violent offences through free phones and community engagement.

#### By 2008

- To work with the NHS to pilot brief motivational interventions for victims of violence within a clinic setting.
- To engage with agencies dealing with violent offenders to develop interventions suitable for a range of custodial and community sentences.
- To have violence prevention as a stated strategic objective in Health Board plans.
- To work with NGOs and public bodies to commence voluntary violence prevention programmes in communities to provide help for perpetrators of violence.
- To have a range of victim support services integrated within Violence Reduction initiatives.
- To share police information around self directed violence with other agencies to inform suicide prevention activity.
- To contribute to training across a range of police, health and education professionals to enable them to identify and respond to different types of violence.

**Violence Reduction 10 Year Plan**

# VNOI E N C E reduction unit

see how we are delivering our objectives at  
[www.actiononviolence.com](http://www.actiononviolence.com) - Delivering Violence Reduction



Violence Reduction Unit Pegasus House 375 West George Street Glasgow G2 4LW  
T: 0141 532 5802 [www.actiononviolence.com](http://www.actiononviolence.com)