

The London Public Health Violence Reduction Network

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose

The London Public Health Violence Reduction Network will bring together key interested partners across the Public Health system, to engage on emerging and priority issues relating to violence reduction in London. The aim will be to ensure Public Health partners are kept updated on what's happening in the violence reduction landscape, to support horizon-scanning on key issues with implications for public health, and to support the sharing/disseminating of best practice among key networks.

2. Context

- Violence is a leading worldwide public health problem, as declared by the World Health Assembly.
- Violence in London has increased in recent years, and is highly geographically concentrated, with most areas seeing stable or decreasing rates of violence.
- Those involved in violence are likely to be vulnerable in multiple, interrelated ways and many may have experienced past victimisation and trauma.
- London figures show that three quarters of the boroughs in London with the highest levels of violence offending were also in the top 10 most deprived and have higher proportions of children under 20 living in poverty.
- There is growing awareness among partners of the role of Public Health partners in tackling violence in London.
- In addition, there are new responsibilities related to the Serious Violence Duty and requirements to undertake strategic needs assessments, with need to look strategically at how partners across London will work together to deliver this new statutory duty.
- There are a number of key partners in London who take a public health-led approach to violence, including; the Violence Reduction Unit, the NHS Violence Reduction Partnership, the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime and more.
- A public health approach to tackling violence means looking at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a police enforcement problem. Instead, this approach looks at violence as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences.
- This Network will offer a formal framework to support Public Health system engagement on this issue.

3. Objectives

The London Public Health Violence Reduction Network will:

- Share data, intelligence and analysis on violence-related crime, trends and emerging issues related to violence in London, and provide an opportunity for regional horizon scanning.
- Engage partners on key pieces of work being developed, and potential opportunities for Public Health engagement and input; including strategies, commissions, consultations, partnership work and more.
- Assist in the sharing of information, learning, innovation and good practice around violence reduction in London.
- Engage with subject matter experts where relevant on specific topics requiring further engagement or input.

4. Membership

Members include a range of key partners --

- ADPH London
- GLA Public Health
- VRU
- NHS VRP
- MOPAC
- Local Authority Consultants in Public Health
- Directors of Public Health within Trusts
- Consultants in Public Health working in ICBs
- Senior Public Health Strategists for Local Authorities
- Community Safety Teams

In addition to core membership, representatives from a range of organisations may be invited to attend future meetings where relevant to the discussions.

5. Meeting arrangements and governance

Meetings take place bi-annually, with one session held online, and one held in-person.

A number have meetings have been held since the first meeting, which took place on 4 December 2024. Meetings incorporate key speakers delivering a range of violence reduction activities in London and provide opportunity to set the terms for subsequent meetings.

GLA Public Health and ADPH London provide support to convene the Forum, as well as playing a key role in supporting the collation and sharing of city-wide data and intelligence.