

Home Office – A Consultation on a new legal duty to tackle
violent crime
SCRA Consultation Response



Home Office – Consultation on a new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence

Background

This is a response from the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) to a Home Office consultation for England and Wales. In order to fully explain our position we need to put the work we do within context.

SCRA operates the Children’s Reporter service across Scotland - which sits at the heart of the Children’s Hearings System. The Children’s Hearings System is Scotland’s distinct statutory system of child protection and youth justice. The Children’s Hearings System was enshrined in law in the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968¹ and the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011² is the current relevant statute.

The Children’s Hearings System is a multi-agency system which sits within Scotland’s wider agenda of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC³) and the Whole Systems Approach⁴ to youth justice, with its focus on early and effective intervention. The Children’s Hearings System is discrete and distinct from the Criminal Justice System, but there are links between the two systems built into statutory responsibility⁵.

Some young people / offences require to be ‘jointly reported’ by the Police to both the Children’s Reporter and the Procurator Fiscal Service, as outlined in Police Scotland’s Standard Operating Procedure ‘Offending by Children’⁶ – if their behaviour fits into the Lord Advocate’s guidelines⁷.

The Children’s Hearings System is not a criminal justice system – it does not deal with children or young people as criminals. Rather, the system deals with the holistic presenting needs of a child, regardless of the behaviour(s) which bring the child to the attention of the Children’s Hearing. The behaviours which can be referred to the Children’s Hearing cover the behaviour of the child, offences committed by the child, or behaviour of adults / others towards the child and they are detailed in Section 67 of the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011⁸.

Children’s Reporters are public officials who receive referrals about children and young people and then request information about a child’s situation in order to decide whether to refer a child to a Children’s

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/49/contents>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/1/contents>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/youth-justice/whole-system-approach/>

⁵

http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Prosecution_Policy_Guidance/Protocols_and_Memorandum_of_Understanding/Decision%20making%20in%20cases%20of%20children%20jointly%20reported%20to%20the%20Procurator%20Fiscal%20and%20Childrens%20Reporter%20-%20Jan%202016.pdf

⁶ <https://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/151934/184779/offending-by-children-sop>

⁷

http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Prosecution_Policy_Guidance/Lord_Advocates_Guidelines/Lord%20Advocates%20Guidelines%20offences%20committed%20by%20children.pdf

⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/1/section/67>





Hearing. Local authorities and Police Scotland have a statutory duty to refer children to the Reporter, if statutory criteria are met. Those criteria are in the 2011 Act, section 60 and 61 and cover information gathering and sharing and if the child is in need of protection, guidance, treatment or control and it might be necessary for a compulsory supervision order to be made then a referral to the Reporter should be made.

SCRA employs Children's Reporters who are located throughout Scotland, working in close partnership with panel members and other professionals such as social work, education, the police, the health service and the courts system.

Children's Reporters decide whether there is evidence of a ground for referral to a Children's Hearing under section 67 of the 2011 Act and also whether it is necessary to make a compulsory measure of supervision in respect of the child – a statutory intervention by the state in their family life.

A Children's Hearing is then convened, made up of three Panel Members (men and women). These panel members receive relevant information in advance of the Children's Hearing and discuss the circumstances for a child before they make a decision about whether a compulsory supervision order⁹ requires to be made, or not. A compulsory supervision order is an order which can last for a maximum of 12 months and requires a child to have statutory support provided by a local authority and other relevant support services.

Scotland's Children's Reporters receive referrals about children. Most of the referrals to the Children's Reporter come from the Police (Police Scotland and the British Transport Police). Children and young people can be referred to the Reporter as a result of their own behaviour – which can include offending, behaviour which is out of control of relevant people, behaviour which is having a serious adverse effect on the health, safety, or development of the child or another person or as a result of alcohol or substance misuse (for example). Children can also be referred as a result of the behaviour or behaviours of the adults in their family – for lack of parental care, because they have been the victim of a schedule 1¹⁰ offence under the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 – offences against children to which special provisions apply or as a result of domestic abuse.

Often offending is accompanied by another concern in the child's life – and very often offending is not the primary concern which requires a compulsory measure of intervention. In 2017 / 2018 more children were referred to the Reporter for a lack of parental care (4623 children) than for offending (3063).

Therefore, we are presenting the following information about offending and offences in the Children's Hearings System as indicative of offending behaviour alone – the figures do not give the full picture in relation to the children who are engaged in offending – and we know from research that the children who are involved in offending are also children who have experienced often considerable adversity. For example, SCRA research published in 217 “16 and 17 year olds in the children's Hearings System¹¹” page 3

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/1/section/83>

¹⁰ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/46/schedule/1>

¹¹ <https://www.scra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/16-and-17-year-olds-in-the-Children's-Hearings-System.pdf>





– “Over half of the young people (56%) were aged between 12 and 15 when their CSOs were first made; and 18% had been on CSOs for at least 10 years. Almost half (44%) first had their CSOs made on basis of grounds of lack of parental care, and 20% because of non-attendance at school.”

So – all of the offence information from Children’s Hearings System data only tells part of the story. The table below indicates the referrals received by the Reporter across a 3 year period, 2016 to 2018, the children they referred to and the referrals which came from the Police, from SW and from other sources¹².

	2016		% change (2016 to 2017)		2017		% change (2017 to 2018)		2018	
	Child	Referral	C	R	Child	Referral	C	R	Child	Referral
Police	10,062	20,030	-12%	-6%	8,844	18,898	-9%	-9%	8,068	17,106
SW	4,055	4,445	-6%	-8%	3,809	4,088	-12%	-12%	3,352	3,601
Other	2,146	2,328	9%	8%	2,338	2,519	-7%	-8%	2,177	2,327
Total	14,925	26,803	-8%	-5%	13,749	25,505	-8%	-10%	12,597	23,034

SCRA statistics in relation to offending count three things; the children; the referrals and the offences. One referral can contain more than one offence; and one child can have more than one referral (multiple offence referrals but also multiple referrals on multiple grounds).

Across the 3 years 2016 to 2018 there has been an increase of 26% in Reporter decisions in relation to ‘violent offences’ (as categorised in the offence mapping endnote). These ‘violent offences’ are not distinguished in the data SCRA collects and have been isolated specifically to provide some context for the work being done in Scotland. The ‘violent’ offences as captured in the data run for this response were determined by the data analysis and the consultation response author and are for indicative purposes only – the figures we present are not definitive. There has also been a corresponding 16% increase in the disposal of ‘violent offences’ at the Children’s Hearing / associated court proceedings (again, the data does not distinguish these offences and decision making is based on the need of each individual child – not on what the child has done).

The next table details the numbers of children and young people who had Reporter decisions made about violent offence grounds in each year over the 3 year period.

Violent offences	
Year	Children / young people
2016	1,558
2017	1,762
2018	1,714

¹² Other sources includes the Court, Procurator Fiscal, Education, Health, multi-agency forums, the Reporter family members and members of the general public.



Over the 3 year period Reporters decided that 9% of the children referred should have a Children’s Hearing; that current measures¹³ were sufficient for 43% of the children referred; that a local authority should work on a voluntary basis¹⁴ with 28% of the children referred and that for 32% of the children referred no further action¹⁵ was required¹⁶.

In the data we have presented the knife / offensive weapon offences are also counted as violent offences. Across the 3 years 2016 to 2018 there has been an increase of 55% in Reporter decisions in relation to offences involving a knife / offensive weapon (as categorised in the offence mapping endnote). There has also been a corresponding 79% increase in the disposal of knife / offensive weapon offences at the Children’s Hearing/ associated court proceedings (although the total numbers are relatively low – 99 children and young people in total over the 3 year period).

The next table details the numbers of children and young people who had Reporter decisions made about knife / offensive weapon offence grounds in each year over the 3 year period.

Knife / offensive weapon offences	
Year	Children / young people
2016	252
2017	357
2018	377

Over the 3 year period Reporters decided that 10% of the children referred should have a Children’s Hearing; that current measures were sufficient for 37% of the children referred; that a local authority should work on a voluntary basis with 26% of the children referred and that for 28% of the children referred no further action was required¹⁷.

SCRA statistics show more offences involving violence or a knife / offensive weapon, with more children & young people involved in this offending behaviour referred to the Reporter. Children’s Reporters are also making more decisions about these kinds of cases – when in the wider context overall referrals to the Reporter and the number of children involved in the referrals has been falling.

SCRA have focused on how we work with children and young people in Scotland in this response. This work with children and young people, and their families is critical and it strikes us that the new statutory duty as proposed in the consultation would have a different effect within Scotland.

¹³ Which can include existing statutory measures, or voluntary supports with which the child and family are engaging.

¹⁴ Which requires the development of a child’s plan and work towards achieving that which the child and family will positively engage with on a voluntary basis.

¹⁵ Situations which have resolved and where no additional work is required to keep a child safe.

¹⁶ Note: The percentages will total more than 100% as some children have had more than one reporter decision on violent offences. The totals count each child once.

¹⁷ Note: The percentages will total more than 100% as some children have had more than one reporter decision on violent offences. The totals count each child once.





We are already familiar with statutory duties – there is a statutory duty on the Police and Local Authorities to refer to the Children’s Reporter in the 2011 Act (for example); but the landscape in Scotland is very different to the landscape in England and Wales. Among the fundamental principles of the Children’s Hearings System are:

- the needs of children or young people in trouble should be met through a single holistic and integrated system, whether concerns relate to their welfare or behaviour
- a preventative approach is essential, involving early identification and diagnosis of problems
- the welfare of the child remains at the centre of all decision making and the child’s best interests are paramount throughout
- the child’s engagement and participation is crucial to good decision making

SCRA’s vision is that vulnerable children and young people in Scotland are safe, protected and offered positive futures.

Mapping – crimes recorded in SCRA data used in the response:

We did not use crime codes in relation to drug misuse or supply – but anticipate that these offences would also be linked to a propensity to commit serious or violent crime and may certainly be linked to ‘county lines’ organised criminal behaviour.

‘Violent’ crimes
Abduction
Assault
Assault & Attempt Robbery
Assault & Breach of the Peace
Assault & Robbery
Assault and Robbery
Assault by Threats
Assault by Threats & Robbery
Assault Danger Life
Assault Disfigurement
Assault Impairment
Assault Injury
Assault Injury & Disfigurement
Assault Injury & Intent Rob
Assault intent Rape
Assault intent Rob
Assault Severe Injury





Assault Severe Injury & Danger Life
Assault Severe Injury & Disfigurement
Assault Severe Injury & Permanent Impairment
Assault Severe Injury Disfigurement & Danger Life & Robbery
Assault Severe Injury, Impairment, Disfigurement Danger Life
Assault Severe Injury, permanent disfigurement, attempted robbery & attempted murder
Assault To Injury & Attempted Robbery
Assault To Injury And Disfigurement
Assault To Injury With Intent To Commit S18 Rape Of Under 13
Assault To Severe Injury, Impairment & Disfigurement
Assault To Severe Injury, Permanent Disfigurement
Assault With Intent To Commit S1 Sexual Offences Act- Rape
Assault With Intent To Commit S18 Sexual Offences-Rape U13
Attempt Abduction
Attempt Murder
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S47(1) - Offensive Weapon
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S49(1) - Carry A Knife
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S49a(1) - Carry Knife School Premises
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S49a(2) - Offensive Weapon School
Culpable & Reckless Discharge Firearm
Emergency Workers (s) 2005 S1(1) Ass, Obs Emergency Worker
Emergency Workers (s) 2005 S3(1) Ass, Obs Person Assisting
Emergency Workers (s) 2005 S5(1) Ass, Obs Nurse
Fire 2005 S39 (1) Assault Obstruct Hinder Employee
Firearms 1968 S19 Firearm Public Place
Firearms 1968 S19 Possess firearm & ammunition
Firearms 1968 S19(d) Possess Imitation Firearm
Firearms 1968 S2(1) Shotgun without certificate in force
Firearms 1968 S20(2) Trespass land imitation firearm
Firearms 1968 S24(4)(b) Give air weapon under 17 years
Firearms 1968 S5(1)(b) Possess prohibited weapon
Firearms 1968 S5(1)(b) Possess Prohibited Weapon
Firearms Act 1968 S22(4) Under 18 Possess Air Weapon/ammo





Indecent Assault Child Under 16
Mobbing Rioting
Police & Fire Ref 2012 S90(1)(A)Assault Officer Exec Of Duty
Police & Fire Ref 2012 S90(1)(B)Assault Ass Officer Exe Duty
Police (s) 1967 S41(1)(a) Assault
Police Act 1996 S89(1) Assault Btp
Rape
Reckless Discharge Firearm
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S1 Assault & Rape
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S1 Attempted Rape
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S1 Rape
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S1&2, Rape And Sexual Penetration
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S1&3 Sexual Assault And Attempted Rape
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S1,2 & 3 Assault, Rape, Sex Pene & Sex Assault
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S1,3,8 Sex Assault, Exposure, Intent To Rape
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18 & 19 Rape & Sexual Penetration Of Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18 & S20 Assault, Rape Sexual Assault Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18 & S20 Rape And Sexual Assault Of A Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18 Assault And Attempted Rape Of Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18 Attempted Rape Of A Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18 Rape And Common Law Assault Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18 Rape Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18&19 Assault Rape Sexual Penetration Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S18,19 &20 - Rape, Sex Pen And Sex Assault Of A Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S19 & 20 sexual Penetration Sexual Assault Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S19 Assault And Attempted Sexual Penetration Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S19 Assault By Penetration Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S19 Cl Assault/Assault By Penetration Young Child
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S2 Assault And Sexual Assault By Penetration
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S2 Sexual Assault By Penetration
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S3 And Common Law Assault
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 S3 Sexual Assault
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 Ss3, 7(1) & 8 Sex Assault, Communicating Indecently, Exposure





Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, Sections 20 And 25
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act S19 & 20 assault, Penetration, Sexual Assault Young Children
Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act S20 Sexual Assault Young Child

Knife / Offensive Weapon (also counted in 'violent' mapping)
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S47(1) - Offensive Weapon
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S49(1) - Carry A Knife
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S49a(1) - Carry Knife School Premises
Crim Law Consolidation Act 1995 S49a(2) - Offensive Weapon School
Culpable & Reckless Discharge Firearm
Firearms 1968 S19 Firearm Public Place
Firearms 1968 S19 Possess firearm & ammunition
Firearms 1968 S19(d) Possess Imitation Firearm
Firearms 1968 S2(1) Shotgun without certificate in force
Firearms 1968 S20(2) Trespass land imitation firearm
Firearms 1968 S24(4)(b) Give air weapon under 17 years
Firearms 1968 S5(1)(b) Possess prohibited weapon
Firearms 1968 S5(1)(b) Possess Prohibited Weapon
Firearms Act 1968 S22(4) Under 18 Possess Air Weapon/ammo
Reckless Discharge Firearm

SCRA welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

Questionnaire

This questionnaire is divided into three parts:

Part 1: General questions covering your organisation and background, your geographical location and the partners you might work with.

Part 2: Questions about your current work in serious violence

Part 3: Questions posed in the body of the consultation document

Part 4: Questions about the consultation options and their possible impact.

We would be grateful for answers to any or all of the questions asked based on their relevance to you or the organisation you work for.

Part 1: General questions

1. What sector does your agency/organisation represent?





- ✓ **Other, please specify:** Child protection & youth justice.

2. Is your agency/organisation part of or does it work with any existing multi-agency partnership such as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP)?

- ✓ **No** - SCRA works independently but in partnership with different local and national agencies across Scotland.

The Children's Hearings System is an affiliation of different bodies: SCRA & Children's Reporters who refer to the Children's Hearing; Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) & the panel members who make decisions in Children's Hearings; social work departments within each Scottish local authority area (32) who implement the decision of the Hearing and other health, social care, education and 3rd sector professionals who may be involved with an individual child's plan.

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service is also involved – as the Court makes decisions about disputed fact or decisions about any appeals.

Decision making is carefully separated out in our legislation and the partnership working of the system is firmly embedded. This has been supported by the national approach of the GIRFEC model in Scotland – where the child is placed firmly at the centre of all professional decision making.

3. Where is your agency/organisation based?

- ✓ Scotland

4. What agencies/organisations do you work closely with to prevent and tackle serious violence in your area? Multiple answers possible.

- ✓ Criminal Justice
- ✓ Education and child care
- ✓ Health and social care
- ✓ Local government
- ✓ Police
- ✓ Voluntary and community sector

Part 2: Current work in the area of serious violence

5. Does your agency/organisation currently have activities in place to prevent/tackle serious violence?

- ✓ **Yes.** Please continue with question 6.

6. [If answered 'yes' in question 5] If you are currently working in an agency/organisation with an interest in serious violence:





6.1. What kind of activity do you undertake in preventing and tackling serious violence? Multiple answers possible.

✓ **Other, please specify:**

One of the grounds for referral to the Children’s Hearing under section 67 of the 2011 Act is (j) ‘the child has committed an offence’. Any ‘offence’ perpetrated by a child or young person can be narrated under the (j) ground for referral – and serious / violent offences are regularly referred to the Reporter and/or to Children’s Hearings. As described earlier there are also offences proscribed by the Lord Advocate’s Guidelines which require certain offences to be discussed by the Children’s Hearings System (the Reporter) and the Criminal Justice System (the Procurator Fiscal). Some of these offences are serious & violent offences.

Scotland has is also in the process of finalizing and ratifying a new Age of Criminal Responsibility Act – where the age of criminal responsibility will rise from 8 to 12 (the age of criminal prosecution is already 12¹⁸). This means that we are having to develop an approach to dealing with incidents of serious & violent behaviour which will no longer be regarded as ‘criminal behaviour’.

6.2. How much of your agency/organisation’s time/resources is currently spent on these activities in terms of:

All SCRA staff are employed, we have no volunteers (although Children’s Hearings Scotland are responsible for a large number of volunteers within the Children’s Hearings System they are a separate non-departmental public body). All of SCRA staff are involved in our work – a summary of our staffing profile is:

		FT	PT
EAST AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND	Support roles	43	82
	Reporter & other roles	70	47
NORTH WEST	Support roles	34	41
	Reporter & other roles	57	41
HEAD OFFICE	All roles	46	28

6.3. Please specify the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) in your agency/organisation involved in these activities by role/rank. Multiple answers possible.

✓ **Other, not listed above, please specify:**

SCRA staffing profile summarised in table at 6.2.

¹⁸ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/13/section/52> The Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, section 52.





6.4. What other costs (e.g. equipment, IT, overhead costs) are associated with your work preventing and tackling serious violence? Please estimate the cost where possible. Open question.

SCRA statement of comprehensive net expenditure, 2017/2018 (1st column) and 2016 / 2017 (2nd column), taken from SCRA Annual Accounts 2017/2018, page 27¹⁹.

Expenditure			
Staff costs	3	18,937	16,798
Other expenditure	4	5,558	6,376
Depreciation and amortisation		868	1,999
		<u>25,363</u>	<u>25,173</u>
Income	2	<u>442</u>	<u>417</u>
Net expenditure		24,921	24,756
Other comprehensive net expenditure			
Interest payable		3	7
Interest receivable		-	(2)
Pension scheme finance cost	11	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,055</u>
Net expenditure before Scottish Government funding		<u>26,124</u>	<u>25,816</u>

7. [If answered 'no' in question 5] If you currently do not have activities in place to prevent/tackle serious violence, what activities do you feel would be beneficial to address serious violence in your area? Open question.

No answer supplied.

Part 3: Questions posed in the body of consultation document

8. Do you agree that the vision and focus for a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence is correct? If not, please explain why.

SCRA absolutely agree that serious violence should be tackled and prevented through multi-agency work. The multi-agency work needs to be flexible, adaptable and proportionate. The multi-agency work needs to recognize the triggers and causal effects of behaviours and it needs to provide interventions with an evidence base demonstrating their success. However – multi-agency work is not the whole answer.

The multi-agency work also needs to engage directly with the perpetrators of serious violence - and with their families (depending on their age). Young men engaged in serious and violent offending should be held responsible and accountable for their actions and should have the opportunity to choose to act in alternative ways. SCRA thinks that it is crucial that individual rights, agency, decision making and responsibility is a corner stone of any structured approach to tackling serious violence – to have any success the population at risk of involvement in serious & violent crime need to be engaged in some way in the work to address it.

¹⁹ <https://www.scra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SCRA-Accounts-2017-18.pdf>





The Children's Hearings System is a multi-agency professional approach – but which requires individual children and their families to actively participate with discussions around what should happen to improve situations, in the Children's Hearing. The impact of the Hearing as a statutory intervention would be markedly diminished without the involvement of children and their families. Consensus about what should happen to make improvements would not develop without the involvement of children and families and professionals meeting to make decisions which impact children and families, without involving them directly would marginalize vulnerable families even further.

We fully understand that England & Wales does not have a Children's Hearings System. But, from this consultation document, we are unable to see clearly how multi-agency working in England & Wales will be altered or improved in order to have a positive effect on the lives of individuals and their families.

9. Do you consider that Option One would best achieve the consultation vision? Please explain why.

Not sure.

Whilst SCRA believe that tackling serious and violent crime requires an organised, multi-agency approach we are not sure that the wide parameters of the duty as outlined in option 1 would succeed in having a positive, measurable effect. We are also puzzled by the emphasis on the professional / multi-agency response, without the express involvement of a child / young person & their family. Without specified ways to engage individuals at risk of harm or involved in harmful behaviour it seems an impossible task for professionals to carry out any imposed duty to any level of success.

However, as indicated at the beginning of our response, we are answering in relation to the specific Scottish context in which we work, where the statutory duty to refer to the Reporter and to refer to a Children's Hearing in place is discreet and defined and exists within a wider context of all of the work around children as they are growing up in Scotland.

10. Do you consider the specific agencies listed in Schedule 6 to the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 the right partners to achieve the consultation vision? If not, please explain why.

Not sure.

As explained above we are not entirely sure what the consultation vision is, consequently we do not see how the various, very different agencies outlined in Schedule 6 of the 2015 Act would be able to act in any common purpose to achieve the desired aim.

11. Do you consider that Option two would best achieve the consultation vision? Please explain why.

Possibly.





SCRA thinks that option 2 places multi-agency decision making much closer to the problem of serious and violent crime within communities across England & Wales. It will therefore be easier to engage with individuals at risk of / engaged in harmful behaviours; relevant local initiatives can be developed, promoted and supported and any impact and assessment of the approaches taken can be more responsive and agile. The Community Safety Partnership is an established group, with a regular meeting cycle – and therefore the ‘vision’ of tackling serious & violent crime can become a ‘standing’ agenda item – and will be subject to regular discussion and review.

SCRA thinks that any effective tackling of serious violence needs focus / structure and regular review - and this option is the closest to delivering this.

12. Should the list of Statutory Partners in Community Safety Partnerships be added to so that they can adequately prevent and tackle serious violence in local areas? If so, what organisations?

No answer supplied.

13. Do you consider that Option Three would best achieve the consultation vision? Please explain why.

No.

SCRA does not think that option 3 will be strong enough. We think that a statutory framework gives meaning, life and emphasis to the approach being taken. We agree that the Violence Reduction Unit in Scotland has adopted a public health approach – but this approach occurs within a long established context where there are strong statutory frameworks for working with young people and for working with offending.

SCRA thinks that a strong, consistent and strategic approach is required from the beginning and that it is worth spending time to get the statutory framework right in order for a clear and consistent approach to be taken across England & Wales over time.

14. What other measures could support such a voluntary multi-agency approach to tackling serious violence, including how we ensure join up between different agencies?

No answer supplied.

Part 4: Questions about the consultation options and their possible impact

Option One: New duty on specific organisations to have due regard to the prevention and tackling of serious violence

15. How much additional time/resource would be required by your agency/organisation to implement and carry forward the proposed option in terms of:





No answer supplied.

16. Please specify the number of Full Time Equivalentents (FTEs) in your agency/organisation involved in these activities by role/rank. Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied.

17. Are there any other costs (e.g. equipment, IT, overhead costs) you can foresee under the proposed option? Please estimate the cost where possible. Open question.

No answer supplied.

18. What, if any, benefits do you envisage under the proposed option? Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied.

19. What, if any, disadvantages do you foresee arising from the proposed option? Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied.

Option Two: New duty through legislating to revise Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

20. How much additional time/resource would be required by your agency/organisation to implement and carry forward the proposed option in terms of:

No answer supplied.

21. Please specify the number of Full Time Equivalentents (FTEs) in your agency/organisation involved in these activities by role/rank. Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied.

22. Are there any other costs (e.g. equipment, IT, overhead costs) you can foresee under the proposed option? Open question.

No answer supplied.

23. What, if any, benefits do you envisage under the proposed option? Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied.





24. What, if any, disadvantages do you foresee arising from the proposed option? Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied.

Option Three: A Voluntary Non-legislative approach

25. How much additional time/resource would be required by your agency/organisation to implement and carry forward the proposed option in terms of:

No answer supplied.

26. Please specify the number of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in your agency/organisation involved in these activities by role/rank. Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied.

27. Are there any other costs (e.g. equipment, IT, overhead costs) you can foresee under the proposed option? Please estimate the cost where possible. Open question.

No answer supplied

28. What, if any, benefits do you envisage under the proposed option? Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied

29. What, if any, disadvantages do you foresee arising from the proposed option? Multiple answers possible.

No answer supplied

Final questions relating to all options, for all respondents

30. How can the organisations subject to any duty or voluntary response be best held to account?

- ✓ **Other, please specify:** Through developing a clear strategic approach which encourages professional 'buy in', engagement with young people and their families and has a definite review process.

31. Aside from your answers given in previous sections, are there any other considerations that you would like to raise regarding one or more of the proposed options? Open question.

No answer supplied





Thank you for participating in this consultation.

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

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SCRA are happy for this response to be published and we are happy to be contacted following the consultation.

SCRA Practice & Policy Team, 2019.

