

TITLE	Harm Outside the Home Strategy: progress update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 21 March 2022
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Rachel Oakley, Assistant Director Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Support

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Harm Outside the Home Strategy sets out how we will prevent and respond to the risk of children and young people experiencing harm outside their home environment.

The Strategy contributes directly to the Wokingham Borough Community Vision that Wokingham is a great place to live, learn and grow, and a great place to do business, as well as the Council’s Corporate Delivery Plan objectives – particularly those in relation to Enriching Lives, creating Safe, Strong Communities, Changing the Way We Work for You and Being the Best We Can Be.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members of the Committee review, discuss and provide feedback on progress to date with the Harm Outside the Home Strategy, ahead of the next phase of work to complete the Strategy.

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Update the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress to date with development of the “Harm Outside the Home Strategy” since December
2. Discuss with and take feedback from the Committee on work completed to date, including emerging strategic priorities and areas of focus
3. Update the Committee on details around next steps for further development of the Strategy, prior to sign off by the Community Safety Partnership in May

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Since December 2021, work has been undertaken to develop a Harm Outside the Home Strategy and Action Plan which sets out specific, measurable actions to help prevent and respond to incidents of harm affecting children and young people outside their home environment.

Key themes in scope of this work include actions to prevent and respond effectively to child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation, extra-familial harm, and serious youth violence. Three strategic priorities have emerged from the work so far, as well as ten areas of focus which will be explored and developed further as part of the next phase of work.

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to review work completed to date on the Strategy and Action Plan and provide officers with any feedback ahead of formal approval, full implementation, and publication.

Background

General Context

As a Council we want to ensure that Wokingham Borough is a great place for all children and young people to grow up. We also want to ensure that all key outcomes set out in the Council's community vision and Corporate Delivery Plan are achieved – including the aspiration to build Safe and Strong Communities within the Borough.

Most children and young people in the Borough experience highly positive outcomes in relation to educational attainment, health and well-being, and successful transition to independent adulthood. Relative to statistical neighbours and other authorities in the Thames Valley, Wokingham performs strongly in terms of low levels of serious incidents of Harm Outside the Home. However, for some children and young people in the Borough, there is a higher chance of poorer outcomes and higher risk of harm outside the home environment.

The Harm Outside the Home Strategy sets out how we will prevent and respond to the risk of children and young people experiencing harm outside their home environment. The Strategy contributes directly to the Wokingham Borough Community Vision that Wokingham is a great place to live, learn and grow, and a great place to do business, as well as the Council's Corporate Delivery Plan objectives – particularly those in relation to Enriching Lives, creating Safe, Strong Communities, Changing the Way We Work for You and Being the Best We Can Be.

We recognise we need a whole system, partnership response to protecting and safeguarding children and young people from Harm Outside the Home, particularly the most vulnerable. We will achieve this through collaborative leadership and delivery across our strategic partnerships and together with young people, families and communities.

This report sets out some of the progress to date with the Harm Outside the Home Strategy, in order to get input from members of the Committee ahead of progressing to the second phase of strategy development.

Analysis of Issues

1. Purpose of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy

Safeguarding children and young people from psychological and physical Harm Outside the Home is a key priority for the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP). Our principal aim with this Strategy is to prevent and respond effectively to Harm Outside the Home.

Our definition of "Harm Outside the Home" encompasses:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Children missing and/or excluded from education
- Risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of serious youth violence.

The contexts in which Harm Outside the Home take place include:

- online and in the digital world
- amongst peer groups
- within schools and places of learning
- within and between neighbourhoods and borough boundaries
- on and around public transport
- wider community settings where young people live their lives.

Key Drivers

There are several key drivers behind the Harm Outside the Home Strategy, including:

- National and Statutory Drivers – including the requirement for local authorities to set out clear plans for addressing exploitation and serious youth violence, and statutory duties around safeguarding and support for vulnerable children, young people and families
- Regional and Sub-Regional Drivers – including the need to collaborate across the South East region and across the Berkshire West patch around prevention and effective responses to exploitation, extra-familial harm and serious youth violence
- Local Drivers – including the need to deliver clear actions in the context of the Wokingham Borough Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and Children’s Services Strategy, in relation to early intervention and prevention, and focused services and initiatives to improve outcomes for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Three key themes addressed through the Harm Outside the Home Strategy

There are three key thematic areas in focus for the Harm Outside the Home Strategy:

- **Exploitation** (including Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation)
- **Extra-Familial Harm** (relating to harm experienced outside the home environment and caused by individuals other than primary caregivers, as well as issues relating to contextual safeguarding)
- Preventing and tackling **Serious Youth Violence**.

Although each of these three themes are distinct and require focused activity to address them, it is our aim to ensure that actions to address them are strategically aligned, joined up and co-ordinated, to help ensure the maximum beneficial impact. The Harm Outside the Home Strategy will set out how this will be achieved.

Issues in scope of this Strategy which relate to the three key themes

Several issues relate to the three key themes listed above, which are collectively in scope of this Harm Outside the Home Strategy. The issues are distinct but connected, and initial analytical work undertaken on the Strategy shows that in many cases, several of these issues affect the same cohorts of (particularly vulnerable) children, young people and families.

Examples of issues in scope of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy are set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Examples of issues in scope of this Strategy which relate to the 3 key themes

Child Criminal Exploitation
Child Sexual Exploitation
Youth Violence and weapon carrying
Substance misuse and drug-related crime
Domestic Abuse
Contextual Safeguarding / safeguarding outside the home environment
Trauma-informed practice and approaches
Therapeutic Thinking
Resilience, mental health and wellbeing
Support for vulnerable parents
Vulnerable children and young people with SEND
School exclusions
Children missing
Children and young people on part-time timetables
Vulnerable children and young people who are NEET
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and addressing disproportionality

2. Inputs into the Harm Outside the Home Strategy so far

There are several different types of input which are shaping and informing the Harm Outside the Strategy.

These include:

- Contextual drivers, including existing and forthcoming statutory duties
- Input from key stakeholders, including multi-agency partnerships and Task and Finish Groups
- Reviews and Reports on issues in scope already completed or in development
- Developments in practice and models of multi-agency delivery
- Existing strategies and plans (within Wokingham Borough, as well as examples of Strategies and best practice elsewhere, and national/regional studies and policy reviews).

In addition, information has been gathered about approaches and interventions to tackle Harm Outside the Home which are in place now. These are described in summary form in the section below.

Our current approach to tackling Harm Outside the Home

There are a variety of strategic and operational initiatives across Wokingham Borough designed to support children and young people at risk of various types of Harm Outside the Home. These initiatives and service-led interventions are designed to reflect and mitigate risk factors at an individual and community level, through relationship-based practice and disruption techniques. As such, these interventions collectively form the basis of the Borough's current approach to Harm Outside the Home, and contextual safeguarding practice.

These initiatives, interventions and services are underpinned by the principles set out in related Strategies and Plans, including the Children's Services Strategy, the Community

Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, and Wokingham's current Child Exploitation Strategy.

A summary of current strategic and operational approaches to tackling Harm Outside the Home is as follows:

Current strategic initiatives and approaches to Harm Outside the Home

Initiatives co-ordinated by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

The Community Safety Partnership oversees and steers several initiatives and interventions designed to prevent and respond effectively to incidents of Harm Outside the Home. In addition to overseeing work to tackle Exploitation (Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation), the Partnership also steers and directs activity to address risk of Serious Violence and Serious Youth Violence. The Serious Violence and Exploitation Group co-ordinates and steers much of this activity, and this Group reports directly to the CSP.

specific partnership group that focuses on problem solving local issues such as direct engagement with young people and raising awareness of local activities to encourage more positive behaviours.

Exploited and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (EMRAC)

Wokingham Children's Services chair and administer a multi-agency forum known as EMRAC (Exploited and Missing Risk Assessment Conference). The aim of this meeting is to cite and flag cases in which particular young people are at risk of exploitation or frequently missing; and that multi-agency safeguarding plans are developed at a strategic level to reduce risk for both the individual and the wider youth population of Wokingham.

Whilst this is a targeted intervention, meaning that referrals are received via Social Care and the Police, the work of the EMRAC and the insight and intelligence generated through its work has a broader safeguarding impact that helps to reduce risk of Harm Outside the Home for all children and young people across the Borough.

Wokingham Serious Violence and Exploitation Group

The Wokingham Exploitation Sub-Group is a multi-agency meeting that involves key stakeholders and strategic partners delivering effective responses to Exploitation and Serious Violence. The meeting, held on a quarterly basis and chaired by the Assistant Director of Wokingham Children's Social Care. The Group uses key data, trends and themes related to Exploitation and Serious Violence, in order to determine the most effective strategic and operational responses on the ground. Although the Group is focused on issues which affect directly only a small proportion of children and young people in Wokingham, its strategic work helps to protect all children and young people from these forms of Harm Outside the Home.

Pan Berkshire Child Exploitation Meeting

Involving representatives from across the Berkshire Local Authorities, Thames Valley Partnership (TVP) and the Safeguarding Partnerships, this meeting explores trends, themes and practice on a Berkshire-wide footprint, with a view to developing uniformity,

promoting models of best practice and enhancing safeguarding responses. This Pan-Berkshire approach helps to ensure learning about the most effective ways to prevent and address Harm Outside the Home are shared across local areas, and that any common issues and/or issues which cut across Borough boundaries are explored and tackled through strategic and operational actions at a local level.

Current operational initiatives and approaches to Harm Outside the Home

Early Help provision

Wokingham Children's Services offer Targeted 1:1 and family interventions through their Early Help provision. Access to this is determined via Early Help assessment and/or step-down from Social Care. Engagement in the support offered is voluntary. The service is also involved in the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh Explorers Extreme programmes, which offer participants to opportunity to engage in constructive and positive activities and develop key life skills: a significant protective and preventative measure in tackling Harm Outside the Home.

Core Statutory Social Work Services

Wokingham Children's Services support young people who are at risk of exploitation through Child in Need, Child Protection and Children in Care processes. An allocated Social Worker engages with the young person using relationship-based practices and oversees a multi-agency plan designed to manage and mitigate risk.

KICKS and Targeted KICKS projects

The KICKS project aims to create safer, stronger and more respectful communities, through supporting the social, emotional and educational development of young people. Key stakeholders consulted with so far in development of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy regard this project to be one of Wokingham Borough's most popular and effective interventions in terms of preventing Harm Outside the Home.

Funded through Wokingham's Community Safety Partnership and run by Reading Football Club, the aim of the KICKS project is to engage hard to reach young people aged 11-19 years; all sessions are free. KICKS aim to give young people information that raises their awareness about how to keep themselves safe within the community and helps them make informed choices, now and later in life.

Reading Football Club also run a programme known as Targeted KICKS. This is funded via a grant from the Premier League and match funded by Wokingham Borough Council's Early Help service. The aim of the project to is to work with young people to help build resilience, develop positive role models and offer support to those who may be at risk of being drawn into youth violence. There are two tiers of provision, the first of these is targeted at those in Years 7-9 and the second targeted at those in Years 9-11. Referrals for Tier One provision are generated through the professional network, and referrals for Tier 2 through EMRAC. The latter can be in place for up to one year. The programme is also delivering educative interventions in three school settings across Wokingham Borough Council; these were identified in consultation and agreement with the EMRAC chair.

Youth Mentoring

Wokingham Borough Council's Community Engagement Team mentors 15 young people a year between the ages of 11-18, who have been referred via the Early Help Hub. In addition, our Junior Warden programme continues to be a success with the Borough. The work of the Junior Wardens has included intergenerational project work with local sheltered housing residents, visiting PCSOs and litter picks.

Positive Pathways Project

Delivered across five Wokingham Borough Council schools to students in years 6, 7 and 8, the Positive Pathways Programme targets children who are at risk of offending or who are already involved in offending behaviour. Schools provide a baseline in terms of presenting behaviours and success is measured throughout and at the completion of the project. Behaviours are also measured by the children themselves for up to twelve months following the completion of the project. Schools refer children to the programme and only those children who will positively engage with the project are accepted.

Prevention and Youth Justice Service (PYJS) services and initiatives

The Prevention and Youth Justice Service works with young people who have committed criminal offences with the aim of reducing the risk of re-offending, however prevention support is also offered to those who are at risk of offending. Referrals for prevention support are received via the Children's Services Early Help Hub.

PYJS have also been involved in delivering educative programmes to groups of children in schools. This has included work in four secondary schools aimed at reducing violence and offending, along with targeted workshops for smaller groups of students.

In the 2020/2021 financial year, PYJS launched a campaign to raise awareness amongst secondary school staff, students and the wider public about Child Exploitation, how to recognise the signs that it might be occurring and what supports are available to address this. Evaluation of outcomes from this exercise will feed into the further development of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy.

Data and input into the evidence base underpinning the Harm Outside the Home Strategy

Partners involved in developing the Harm Outside the Home Strategy are determined to ensure that strategic priorities and key actions set out within the Strategy are underpinned by a comprehensive and robust analysis of relevant data.

To achieve this objective, several datasets have been gathered so far as part of the first phase of Strategy development.

As part of the next phase, these datasets will be interrogated and analysed to determine:

- Key themes and patterns relating to Harm Outside the Home in the Borough
- Trend, comparator and direction of travel data in relation to issues related to the strategy – for example, data relating to year-by-year comparisons, comparisons with geographical and statistical neighbours
- intersectional analysis: where do the same children/young people occur in multiple categories?
- analysis in the context of multi-agency thresholds and levels of vulnerability

A summary of the key datasets received for analysis so far is as follows:

- Borough-wide demographic data
- The Annex A dataset*
- Prevention and Youth Justice data
- Children Social Care Missing Children data
- Child Sexual Exploitation episodes
- Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference data
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategic Assessment
- Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Needs Assessment
- Profiles of children and young people in the borough who are NEET, including Care Leavers and other vulnerable groups
- School exclusion data and analysis
- Profiles of children and young people on part-time timetables
- Survey and consultation data (pending)

* Includes information relating to Children's Social Care contacts, early help, referrals and assessments, CIN, CP, Looked After Children and Care Leaver data.

Initial Consultation and Engagement with key stakeholders and multi-agency groups

As part of this first phase of developing the Harm Outside the Home Strategy, consultation and engagement with several key stakeholders and multi-agency groups has been carried out.

This initial engagement has helped to:

- source key data and intelligence relevant to the scope of the Harm Outside the Home strategy
- identify examples of current practice, strategic and operational initiatives designed to tackle and prevent Harm Outside the Home
- shape initial thinking about strategic priorities and areas of focus for the Strategy

Initial engagement to date has included the following groups:

- Community Safety Partnership's Serious Violence and Exploitation Sub-Group
- Children and Young People's Partnership (via "Systemic Leadership Conference")
- Multi-Agency Task and Finish Group focused on Harm Outside the Home Strategy development
- Initial engagement with key service areas across Children's Services, including Prevention and Youth Justice Service, Children's Social Care, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Support
- Initial engagement with representatives from the SEND Innovation and Improvement Programme

Consultation and engagement will be extended in breadth and depth as part of the next phase of the Strategy development process. Key activities coming up in the coming month include:

- Further consultation with key stakeholders through 121 meetings, discussions and updates to Strategic Partnerships and multi-agency groups, as directed by the

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and its subgroups, and Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP)

- Consultation and Engagement with Children and Young People (a detailed consultation and engagement plan for the Harm Outside the Home Strategy has been prepared and is attached as Appendix 2, which includes engagement activities to inform development of the Strategy, as well as activities post-implementation)
- CSP commissioned survey specifically on issues around Serious Violence and Exploitation, to help feed into the Strategy development process

3. Emerging Insights from work so far

Emerging thinking about Strategic Priorities

Based on the work completed to date, the following are emerging as top Strategic Priorities for the Strategy:

1) Focus on Prevention

Making sure that young people feel safe at early intervals is the most effective way of reducing Harm Outside of the Home. Stopping Harm before it takes place to help sustain the low levels of serious youth violence in Wokingham. Intelligence-led, public health and inclusive approaches. Tackling the underlying causes, not just the symptoms.

2) Right Response, Right Time

Not all harm can be prevented. Where incidents have taken place they must be noted, learnt from and reacted to; in order to stop similar events occurring repetitively. Consistent approach to interventions and responses – e.g. Trauma Informed, Therapeutic Thinking approaches. Tiered responses according to situations / needs / context

3) Effective Partnership

Interagency co-operation is key so that no young people aren't cared for when taken either out of or into the borough. Clear lines of communication are required so that standards of care provided to young are maintained.

Actions which follow from these Strategic priorities will be a mixture of short-term (immediate and within the next 12 months), and longer term (over the next 3-5 years).

Emerging thinking about areas of Focus

Following from the 3 Strategic Priorities listed above, **the following ten areas** are emerging as priority areas of Focus:

1. The Strategy and actions within it needs to reflect the heightened vulnerability of some children and young people in terms of risk of Harm Outside the Home, which in Wokingham Borough include:
 - a. Children and Young People with SEND
 - b. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
 - c. Children and young people missing and/or excluded from education, or on part-time education timetables
 - d. Children and young people in care / leaving care who are not in education, employment or training

- e. Children exposed to Domestic Abuse and conflict
2. Strengthen consistency in professional engagement with children and young people: in terms of who is working with the child/young person, and how
3. Ensure we are listening to families (particularly those in crisis) and putting in place the right help at the right time. This may involve looking again at our model of support for families in crisis, and our support for vulnerable parents
4. Build a better shared understanding across agencies and partnerships of Child Criminal Exploitation: how it works, warning signs, effective multi-agency interventions
5. Strengthen interface between Schools, Police, Social Care and Youth Justice – particularly in terms of sharing information relating to risk and vulnerability
6. The Strategy should set out clear actions to ensure that professionals working on the “front line” with vulnerable children, young people and families are supported to take effective and timely actions to prevent and address harm outside the home, and protect and enhance their own resilience and wellbeing
7. Continue to strengthen partnership approaches to enhanced vulnerability around borough boundaries – for example through the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership
8. Establish shared, partnership-wide thresholds and indicators of vulnerability. Develop a shared understanding of “red flags” indicating risk of harm outside the home and the agility to act on these in a preventative way
9. Continue to drive forward with substantial information and data-sharing projects such as Thames Valley Together (TVT) and Better Together, to improve the efficacy and timeliness of information about vulnerable children and young people to prevent and address harm outside the home
10. Ensure all meetings about vulnerable individuals or groups at risk of harm outside the home have clear remits, appropriate decision-making and recording arrangements, and accountable governance

These emerging areas of focus will be explored further as part of the additional analysis of data and further consultation and engagement in the next state of the Strategy development process.

4. Emerging thinking about how we will work together to deliver the Strategy

In addition to thinking about the areas of focus for the strategy, we have also been thinking about the approaches we need to take across agencies to ensure that the strategy is successfully delivered.

Based on our reviews of best practise, strategies and plans developed elsewhere, national and regional research into harm outside the home, and our initial discussions with key stakeholders, we have developed a unique model of working which blends aspects of Contextual Safeguarding and the public health approach to tackling social issues.

- **Contextual Safeguarding** is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.
- A **Public Health approach** to Harm Outside the Home seeks to use evidence to understand the risk by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of harm outside their home environment.

The purpose of blending these approaches is to ensure we approach Harm Outside the Home in terms of all the environments and contexts in which a child or young person may be at risk – including:

- online and in the digital world
- amongst peer groups
- within schools and places of learning
- within and between neighbourhoods and borough boundaries
- on and around public transport
- wider community settings where young people live their lives.

It is also to ensure we take an intelligence-led, preventative approach designed to address the root causes and risks of Harm Outside the Home, whilst taking effective targeted actions to respond to Harm Outside the Home when it occurs.

Strengthening multiagency Data and Intelligence: Thames Valley Together

In parallel with development of this Strategy, work is progressing to develop a shared data platform for the purposes of prevention and early identification of Serious Violence and other forms of Harm Outside the Home. The “Thames Valley Together” platform is currently in development and will be live in 2022; progress with development of the platform is being monitored by members of the Task and Finish Group steering development of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy, and key actions relating to use of the platform in preventing and addressing Harm Outside the Home will be incorporated into the Action Plan attached to the Strategy.

Strengthening our shared understanding of vulnerability and risk of Harm Outside the Home

In order to strengthen multi-agency working to prevent and address Harm Outside the Home, discussions with key stakeholders in the first phase of development of the Strategy have focused in part on the different approaches agencies take to assessing vulnerability and risk of Harm Outside the Home.

Work in this area has already been undertaken and embedded in the Borough. For example, the Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (EMRAC) has developed a tool designed to enable a comprehensive and robust assessment of risk of several forms of Harm Outside the Home.

The Task and Finish Group tasked with development of the Harm Outside the Strategy has started to gather examples of best practice from other areas who have developed multi-agency risk and vulnerability assessment methodologies, and tools to support professionals to identify risk early and respond appropriately. Appendix 1 provides one such example, the “SAFEGUARD” tool developed as part of Barnet’s approach to supporting Vulnerable Adolescents.

As part of the next stage of the Strategy’s development, approaches and tools used across the sector will be reviewed in the context of current practice, in order to identify opportunities for strengthening the multi-agency approach to Harm Outside the Home in Wokingham Borough.

Developing a shared and strategically aligned understanding of thresholds of risk and vulnerability is a key enabler of effective interventions, by individual professionals and/or

agencies, as well as multi-agency teamwork. Work to strengthen shared understanding of levels of risk and vulnerability will also assist with data analysis in the next phase of work, as common thresholds and understanding of vulnerability will enable those developing the strategy to interrogate data in the context of agreed levels of vulnerability and risk. Typically, levels of risk and vulnerability are assessed as “High” “Medium” or “Low”; or “Red”, “Amber” and “Green”. A shared multiagency understanding of which characteristics or issues constitute High, Medium or Low risk of Harm Outside the Home will enable data analysts to determine the profile of how many children and young people in Wokingham Borough fall into each category, any trends of note, or key themes that will help inform strategic priorities and key actions.

5. Governance

The Harm Outside the Home Strategy is owned by the **Community Safety Partnership (CSP)**, with input from other key multiagency strategic partnerships such as the **Children and Young People’s Partnership (CYPP)**, in order to ensure the range of issues the Strategy seeks to address are given sufficient focus.

The primary group responsible for oversight of the Strategy once implemented is the **Serious Violence and Exploitation Group** which reports directly into the Community Safety Partnership.

A summary of the governance arrangements is set out Appendix 1, in the section “Governance”.

6. Next Steps

Appendix 1 summarises the “Next Steps” for further development of the Harm Outside the Home Strategy.

Key next steps include:

Action	Timescales
Engagement with CSP Serious Violence and Exploitation Group and Harm Outside the Home Strategy Task and Finish Group	Throughout this timeline; T&F Group meetings every 4 weeks
Engagement with Overview and Scrutiny Committee	March 21 st
Progress data collection and analysis	March 2 nd – March 31 st
Further Stakeholder engagement on development of the Consultation Draft Strategy	March 2 nd – March 31 st
Engagement with children and young people on Harm Outside the Home Strategy: areas to focus on and priorities (as per Engagement Plan)	March 2 nd – 18 th April
Revisions to Strategy further to consultation and engagement	March 31 st – April 18 th
Engagement with Children’s Services Leadership Team on draft Strategy	April 13 th

Engagement with Children and Young People's Partnership on Final Draft prior to sign off	April 25 th
Presentation to Community Safety Partnership for sign-off on Final Draft	May 19 th

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

The assumption made by key stakeholders shaping this piece of work is that the Harm Outside the Home Strategy is to be developed and implemented within the envelope of existing resources, and within the context of budgets already agreed. However, it is possible that implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan have the potential to carry financial implications. Any resource implications arising from implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan will be discussed with the Community Safety Partnership and appropriate governance groups prior to completion.

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications
Tackling Harm Outside the Home involves an approach to preventing and safeguarding children and young people in various contexts – including neighbourhood and community spaces, on or around public transport, places of education and learning. The next phase of developing the Harm Outside the Home Strategy will seek to engage representatives from across relevant council departments to ensure a joined up, “one Council” approach to tackling the priorities and issues within the scope of the Strategy. (See further detail on Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation below.)
Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation
As part of this first phase of developing the Harm Outside the Home Strategy, consultation and engagement with several key stakeholders and multi-agency groups has been carried out. This initial engagement has helped to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - source key data and intelligence relevant to the scope of the Harm Outside the Home strategy - identify examples of current practice, strategic and operational initiatives designed to tackle and prevent Harm Outside the Home - shape initial thinking about strategic priorities and areas of focus for the Strategy Initial engagement to date has included the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Safety Partnership's Serious Violence and Exploitation Sub-Group - Children and Young People's Partnership (via “Systemic Leadership Conference”)

- Multi-Agency Task and Finish Group focused on Harm Outside the Home Strategy development
- Initial engagement with key service areas across Children’s Services, including Prevention and Youth Justice Service, Children’s Social Care, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Support
- Initial engagement with representatives from the SEND Innovation and Improvement Programme

Consultation and engagement will be extended in breadth and depth as part of the next phase of the Strategy development process. Key activities coming up in the coming month include:

- Further consultation with key stakeholders (including representatives from across council departments) through 121 meetings, discussions and updates to Strategic Partnerships and multi-agency groups, as directed by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and its subgroups, and Children and Young People’s Partnership (CYPP)
- Consultation and Engagement with Children and Young People (a detailed consultation and engagement plan for the Harm Outside the Home Strategy has been prepared and is attached as Appendix 2, which includes engagement activities to inform development of the Strategy, as well as activities post-implementation)
- CSP commissioned survey specifically on issues around Serious Violence and Exploitation, to help feed into the Strategy development process

Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment is being developed in parallel with the Harm Outside the Home Strategy, and will be attached to the final version of the Strategy prior to formal approval.

Work in the first phase of the Strategy’s development has already identified the requirement to address issues around equality, diversity, inclusion and disproportionality; for example, by ensuring an appropriate focus on delivering better outcomes for particularly vulnerable groups. Initial analysis carried out suggests that the following groups could be considered particularly vulnerable in terms of risk of Harm Outside the Home:

- a. Children and Young People with SEND
- b. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
- c. Children and young people missing and/or excluded from education, or on part-time education timetables
- d. Children and young people in care / leaving care who are not in education, employment or training
- e. Children exposed to Domestic Abuse and conflict

As part of the data analysis in the next phase of the Strategy’s development, work will be undertaken to identify how risks of Harm Outside the Home relate to children and young people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

The final Equality Impact Assessment will set out details of any Differential Impacts which may arise from implementation of the Strategy, including details of actions intended to bring about positive Differential Impacts.

Climate Emergency – <i>This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030</i>
N/A

List of Background Papers
Appendix 1: Summary of progress to date with the Harm Outside the Home Strategy Appendix 2: Plan for engagement with young people on the Harm Outside the Home Strategy

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