A Strategic Needs Assessment of Serious Violence in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County 2021 (Part One)

Nottingham City & Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit

Contents

Foreword

Since we released our first Strategic Needs Assessment in March 2020, the world has changed. No sooner had we published the document than it was announced that due to COVID-19 we would have to lockdown and many of the old certainties were set aside.

Throughout this time the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and our partners have continued our work to reduce violence in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. We have been inspired by the determination and innovation of community and voluntary sector organisations as they have adapted their delivery to the changed circumstances and have risen to the challenge of continuing to protect our most vulnerable at a time when they are most isolated and may feel least able to seek help.

Whilst we have seen a decline in serious violence in public spaces across the county, we are not complacent. We know that this often masks increased criminal exploitation and domestic abuse. Also, at the forefront of our minds this year has been the importance of equality, from a racial, health and economic perspective, which have been further highlighted by COVID-19 and the associated restrictions.

The murder of George Floyd and the arising Black Lives Matter movement have reiterated how far we still have to go to make sure all of our communities have equal access to services and an opportunity to prosper in our society.

For the VRU this means renewed effort to ensure equality and equity are at the centre of all of our work. Whilst this was bought to our attention during lockdown, we will not forget this when the current restrictions do, eventually, end. Our ambition is that this important work will have a lasting effect on how we design our engagement and commission our services ensuring equal access for all.

All of the above and more is reflected in this SNA update. Whilst much of the research and theory from March 2020 remains relevant, as part of our public health approach we examine the wider context in which our young and vulnerable people live their lives which we recognise has now changed considerably.

Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and
Crime Commissioner

Dave Wakelin
Director of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
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Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Needs Assessment Update 2021

Signatories

Name	Role	Signature	Date
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A Strategic Needs Assessment of Serious Violence in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County:
2021 Update
Executive Summary

v. 1.c

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Strategic Needs Assessment 2021 Update.

Early in 2020, the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit (NNVRU) published its first Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) (Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit, 2020). The 2020 SNA is a substantial document; 267 pages including appendices. In addition to sections such as the overview of approaches to tackling violence, it provides quantitative and qualitative analysis from a range of sources. These describe the County and City's population and its experience of violence, as well as summarising community perspectives and the range of interventions in place to tackle violence directly and indirectly.

In updating that document, NNVRU has taken the view that the SNA should have two functions. Firstly, it should be an up-to-date reference tool for those looking for data and information about violence and violence reduction in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The wealth of information contained in the 2020 document has been updated where possible; COVID-19 has meant that not all previously used datasets are relevant or available. For example, school exclusion data has been impacted significantly by lockdowns. Conversely, it has been possible to include some additional information which was either not available in the previous iteration or where feedback suggested the addition would be of value. All of that information is contained in **Part II** entitled **Data, Charts and Tables Updated.**

Secondly, the SNA should also be a document that supports practitioners as well as policy and decision makers in shaping local approaches to violence reduction. The **SNA Supplement (Part I)** is therefore constructed as a companion to the data updates and across a number of areas of interest and aims to:

- Understand the impact of COVID-19 and the uncertainty that it is creating;
- Summarise key datasets emphasising significant changes;
- Refresh the Literature Review to identify new themes and learning;
- Expand on the SNA using new data and adding emerging themes and additional areas of focus.

It is intended that those with an interest in violence reduction will wish to read Part I to refresh their thinking and then use it to inform the development and deliverer of services that reduce harm.

Summary of the Main Findings

In the last nine months, NNVRU has embarked on numerous engagement initiatives and has funded qualitative research to explore local experiences of violence from the perspective of local communities and stakeholders. Consultation with stakeholders (Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit, 2021) who work closely with young people revealed concerns about emerging risks to young people. The number of respondents was small (14), and responses may not reflect wider communities, but do offer possible early insight.

- The move to online living is leading to increases in online sexual exploitation and grooming.
- More positively, some young people have felt safer during lockdown but may have concerns when restrictions ease.
- Tensions and conflict between young people are on the increase, partly spilling over from social media and involving girls on a larger scale.
- Trust and confidence in police and other agencies appears to have increased in some sections of communities but other groups feel more alienated.
- The experience of online learning and exam result confusion has left a layer of young people unconvinced that education will benefit them.
- Many stakeholders highlighted the impact of COVID and COVID-related restrictions on the mental health of young people. This impact on mental health is likely to continue when we enter recovery from COVID.

Literature Search

In refreshing the literature search, some of the main themes that arose were the effect of COVID-19 on domestic violence (DV), on other violent crime, and the negative impact on mental health. Other research reviewed considers the effectiveness of ACES and the impact of ethnicity and experiences with crime and the criminal justice system.

COVID-19 and violent crime

Research on the long term impact of COVID-19 on wider patterns of violence is still in its infancy, but figures do generally show that knife crime and violence related to the night time economy (NTE) did markedly decrease during the first lockdown (Office for National Statistics, 2020). However, some sources have warned that these apparent decreases in violent crime disguise higher levels of exploitation. These sources report young people being exploited by gangs, during COVID-19 and its associated lockdown, exacerbating existing risk factors for exploitation (Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, 2020) (Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, 2020) (National Youth Agency, 2020).

COVID-19, Domestic Violence (DV) and physical abuse

The evidence around the impact of COVID-19 on rates of domestic violence and physical abuse is still preliminary. Published research reflects local intelligence in suggesting that

DV incidence increased during the first COVID-19 lockdown, with domestic abuse charities reporting large increases in incidents. Research by the Filial Violence Project (Condry, et al., 2020) pointed to a 70% increase in cases of child-to-parent domestic violence. Sources generally blame the rise of DV and domestic abuse on the rise in stress factors and triggers for families already at risk, as well as the decreased opportunity for victims to escape or seek help (Children's Commissioner, 2020) (Condry, et al., 2020) (Allwood & Bell, 2020).

COVID-19 Lockdown and Mental Health
The COVID-19 lockdowns are having a marked effect on the mental health of the population, especially groups that were already more vulnerable. Mental wellbeing amongst younger people has suffered, with some reports showing increase in suicidal ideation and apparent suicides (Allwood & Bell, 2020). According to a survey by The Prince's Trust (Prince's Trust, 2021), 50% of young people said that their mental health has worsened since the pandemic with 26% reporting they feel 'unable to cope with life'. Long-term impacts on educational attainment and the effects of isolation and not being able to see friends and family were two of the biggest concerns reported by young people and their carers.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
Since the previous SNA, the published literature related to ACEs and their effect on later life has increased, with a strong 'dose effect' being observed in which those with multiple ACEs being multiple times more likely to be involved in serious violence later on in life (Nottingham City Council, 2018). The early years of a child's development were identified as particularly important. Conversely, other literature has expressed concern that 'ACEs tools' may be being used inappropriately as screening and diagnostic tools and seen as deterministic of poorer outcomes in adulthood. It is still unknown what the overall prevalence of ACEs is in the general population, or what the effects of screening for ACEs could be (Anda, et al., 2020), (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020).

Race, Ethnicity and the experience of Violent Crime and the Criminal Justice System
Research shows that ethnicity is still a key factor in the experience of Violent Crime and the Criminal Justice System (Borysik, 2020) (Morrell, 2020) (Perera, 2020). Whilst crime overall has decreased in the past 10 years, this masks the unequal distribution of crime with the most vulnerable groups, including people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, continuing to be disproportionately affected. Black people are also several times more likely than White British people to be criminalised for minor offences with negative consequences for future prospects. Research shows that compared to the general population, Black people are more frequently given criminal sentences for 'revolving door offences', including minor non-violent offences like drug possession and theft (Bannister & McVie, 2020).

Context

- Relatively few of the contextual datasets included in the 2020 SNA have been updated. Either because the datasets themselves have not been updated or because year-on-year comparisons are not meaningful due to the effects of COVID. The most concerning of the available datasets is the unemployment data, which shows the number of people claiming unemployment benefits has nearly doubled in a year and is now higher than at the peak of the last recession. A similar number of employee jobs have been supported by the furlough scheme.
- Unemployment has disproportionately affected the most deprived areas and evidence from the last recession suggests the most vulnerable groups will be the last to benefit from any improvements in the economy.
- The proportion of 16-17 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) appears to have stayed constant in the last year and has been relatively unaffected by the pandemic.
- There were fewer missing children episodes in the last year, largely, but not solely driven by large reductions during the first national lockdown. Care should be taken in assessing this change, as it may demonstrate the reduced opportunities for children to go missing during lockdown rather than a reduction in the underlying issues leading to children going missing.
- Troubled and Priority Families programmes have continued to operate during the last year and look set to achieve their targets around achieving successful outcomes for families.
- There was an increase in the number of hate-related crimes in the NNVRU area reported to police although the number of hate-related incidents (i.e. incidents that are not criminal offences) fell slightly.
- Nottingham City saw a fall in both hate occurrences and crimes, driven largely by a fall in race-related incidents. Nottinghamshire County saw increases in race-related hate incidents and an overall increase in both occurrences and crimes.

Health

East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) data was unavailable for the 2020 SNA and has been included in this SNA for the first time. Specifically, ambulance callouts related to serious violence. 5,096 ambulance callouts relating to assaults were recorded between January 2018 and September 2020, with the data broadly reinforcing the spatial, temporal and demographic patterns observed in the crime and other health datasets related to the victims of serious violence.

- High proportions of callouts are reported in the urban areas of the NNVRU area, in particular Nottingham City, towns and local centres.
- Ambulance callouts are most frequent on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- 47.5% of callouts relate to males aged 15-39. Men account for three times the number of ambulance callouts than women.
- There is a strong relationship between deprivation and ambulance callouts. 36.6% of callouts are from addresses in the most deprived quintile of the County while 4.5% come from the least deprived quintile.

- 44.1% of ambulance callouts related to serious violence offences required the patient to be conveyed to hospital. 28.2% were assessed and treated at the scene by ambulance crews and 27.7% were assessed by phone and given clinical advice without an ambulance being sent out. This suggests EMAS data may capture some of the lower-harm violence which isn't reported in the hospital or police statistics.

Violent Crime

- The number of serious violence offences recorded between November 2019 and October 2020 was 14.4% lower than the annual average recorded in the 2020 SNA.

- From November 2019 to March 2020, the number of offences broadly followed the annual average from the 2020 SNA. In April, as the first national lockdown due to COVID began, the number of offences was 31.3% lower than average.

- Offence numbers increased as lockdown restrictions were released but remained at least 14.5% lower than average until October 2020.

- From April to October 2020, the number of offences was statistically significantly lower than the long-term mean in every month except August.

- The largest annual reductions in crimes related to the Night Time Economy which were 43.6% lower than the annual average from the 2020 SNA and 75-85% lower during the first national lockdown, reflecting the restrictions placed on the hospitality industry during the lockdown. The number of offences in every month of 2020 were statistically significantly lower than the average from November 2016 to October 2019.

- Knife-enabled robberies also saw a larger reduction than other crime types. The impact of the pandemic is less pronounced for these offences, which were lower than the 2020 SNA average even before the pandemic began.

- Weapon possession offences saw a small increase compared to the annual average from the 2020 SNA, but this is likely to reflect changes in policing during the pandemic.

- Domestic violence offences reported to the police fell overall across the year but these offences followed a very different pattern to other offence types, showing an increase in recorded DV offences during the first national lockdown. There were also geographical variations with large falls in offences in Nottingham City and Mansfield and increases in Bassetlaw and Broxtowe.

- Knife-crime offences fell by 10.8%. Offences fell considerably during the lockdown period, but by July 2020 had returned to the levels seen during 2020 (2020 SNA).

- For all serious violence, the largest reductions, compared to the 2020 SNA, were concentrated in Nottingham City and Mansfield, reflecting their prominence as hubs for employment, study and leisure. Despite these large reductions, these areas still have the highest rates of serious violence offences per head of population.

- Small area data shows the reduction in serious violence hasn't occurred uniformly across the NNVRU area. The largest falls are concentrated in the City and town centres, but some more rural and suburban areas have seen increases in violent crime.

- Data on victims of crime again shows the impact of reduced travel during the last year. The proportion of victims who sustained an injury in Nottinghamshire but were not Nottinghamshire residents reduced compared to the 2020 SNA. In addition, a higher proportion of offences occurred in the victim's home district with fewer offences being recorded in Nottingham City where the victim was not a City resident.

- The age profile of the victims of crime was slightly older than during the 2020 SNA. More than half of victims were still aged under 30, but the proportion fell by 3.9% in the last year.

- Data on perpetrators of crime show a similar pattern to victims, with a higher proportion of perpetrators committing offences in their home districts, and a smaller proportion committing offences in Nottingham City.

General observations and issues with the data available

- Much of the contextual and health-related data is only released annually, with the latest updates showing data up to March 2020 which means it shows little, if any, COVID-related impact. Whilst the data can be used to build a picture of the prevalence of serious violence and related factors, including the characteristics of the people affected by violence, it is of less use in analysing short-term changes.

- The collection of some data sources has also been interrupted by the pandemic. This has particularly affected schools' data relating to performance and attendance and injury surveillance data in Emergency Departments.

- The development of the new Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) should solve some of the problems around the timeliness and accuracy of data collected by Emergency Departments. Initial ECDS data has been released but work is still to be done to improve the data quality.

- Data from East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) covering the period January 2018 to September 2020 is included for the first time.

- Completion of ethnicity data remains an ongoing problem across all local and national datasets. In too many cases data on ethnicity is missing which continues to limit our ability to assess the impacts of serious violence on different ethnic groups.

Recommendations from the previous SNA: Progress since March 2020

The first iteration of the NNVRU SNA made a broad range of recommendations that were approved by the Strategic Violence Reduction Board and have been the basis of strategy and commissioning in the proceeding nine months. Despite the changed situation due to COVID-19, the recommendations remain relevant and continue to inform NNVRU's Serious Violence Response Strategy. Some of the key progress NNVRU has made since March 2020 is highlighted below:

- **Recommendation:** In recognition of the lack of robust evidence of effectiveness in some areas of violence reduction, NNVRU should consider commissioning a research partner to support the evaluation of locally commissioned services, projects and programmes and contribute to the national evidence base.

  Current progress: As part of NNVRU's public health approach, we are committed to ensuring not only that we take an evidence-informed approach but that we are able to contribute to the local and national evidence base through evaluation of our commissioned interventions. The NNVRU has commissioned Northampton University to undertake a process evaluation of key projects. The evaluation approach seeks engagement with providers and service users focused on why, when, where and for whom an intervention works, providing an understanding of why and how impact is occurring.

  Furthermore, NNVRU has commissioned Nottingham Trent University to evaluate the effectiveness of two of our flagship interventions; the U Turn custody intervention programme and targeted youth outreach which is provided by Breaking Barriers Building Bridges. We anticipate final reports from each of the evaluations by March 2021, which will inform future commissioning decisions and add to the national evidence base.

- **Recommendation:** The NNVRU will design and create a data dashboard and provide a quarterly report, accessible to partners, that triangulates data including injury surveillance, ambulance and police data. This will encourage partners to make more effective use of the data and highlight the important contribution of this data in Nottingham City and the districts in Nottinghamshire County's response to violence including through a place-based approach.

  Current Progress: The Senior Analyst within the NNVRU team undertook consultation with partners during Q2 to inform the design of a partnership data dashboard, which incorporates the following data sets:

  - Contextual data – deprivation, school exclusions, special educational needs and children in need
  - Police data – offences committed, by violence type, location type and outcomes

- Police data – perpetrators and victims, by violence type, age and gender
- Health data – hospital attendances and admissions by age and gender.

Once finalised, the dashboard will be published on the NNVRU website to partners in the statutory and third sector, encouraging all agencies to make more effective use of data to inform strategic policymaking and problem-solving.

- **Recommendation:** NNVRU will commission qualitative research with individuals, families and local communities affected by serious violence across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, including those from new and emerging communities and those whose voices are seldom heard.

   Current Progress: NNVRU has commissioned Northampton University to undertake qualitative research using a variety of methodologies to engage with those who have experienced violence as victims and/or perpetrators, with a focus on BAME and new and emerging communities, children and young people excluded from school, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and multi-generational voices. Recommendations will inform understanding of local context and future commissioning.

- **Recommendation:** NNVRU will consider commissioning qualitative research that further explores young women's experience of violence in their intimate relationships and linked to young men involved in illicit drug and gang-related crime and violence to inform the development of our gender-based work.

   Current Progress: Responding to the lived experience of girls and young women affected by violence is a key strategic priority for NNVRU. Whilst we incorporated some of these experiences in the SNA, NNVRU is further exploring girls' and young women's experience of violence both in their intimate relationships and through gang involvement. NNVRU has funded local partners already working with girls and young women to gather their views, and better understand, their personal experience of violence. This builds on the excellent local work on this topic as evidenced by a range of local publications, which continue to guide practice.

   Specifically, this engagement will provide recommendations that guide NNVRU action planning and commissioning. It is important to us that the impact of the findings is felt outside of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, including influencing the thinking of other VRUs and national policy.

- **Recommendation:** An incubation hub could support providers to develop skills such as demonstrating project outcomes as part of meaningful evaluation including, where possible, an assessment of value for money. The development and implementation of a standardised NNVRU evaluation framework would support consistency. Local services and projects commissioned by the NNVRU and partners should be a particular focus.

Current Progress: During 2020/21 the NNVRU has worked with partners in the local authority to develop an Incubation Hub, which aims to increase understanding and capability in the community sector through workforce development. There are a number of work streams within the Incubation Hub programme; such as providing access to restorative supervision, training for Designated Safeguarding Leads, contextual safeguarding awareness training and support with bid writing, evaluation and information sharing. Incubation hub work streams will continue to be identified and delivered during 2021/22 in collaboration with the VCS sector.

- **Recommendation:** NNVRU will consider collating existing mapping and working with the VCS to identify gaps and omission and the commissioning of a joint strategic assets assessment to complement the SNA and Youth and Community Engagement Strategy and inform the delivery plan.

  Current Progress: The NNVRU has commissioned a Community Assets Assessment to understand and increase community resilience and connectivity in tackling the causes of serious violence in specific localities and communities. An Asset Based Community Development model is being utilised to engage and involve local communities in the asset mapping process. It is anticipated that, through this process, community members will gain understanding of the underlying issues and understand the mechanisms and resources, which can change their environment to reduce the risk of serious violence. The final report is anticipated by the end of March 2021.

- **Recommendation:** Some youth and community workers would benefit from additional training and skills development including developing their understanding of the role of social media in violence and 'self-reflective' youth work.

  Current Progress: The NNVRU is currently collaborating with the National Youth Agency, the regulatory body for youth work, on a strategic programme aimed at ensuring consistent high-quality standards of youth work in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire through the development and implementation of a Youth Charter, Tailored Quality Mark and Training and Organisational Development Strategy. This programme will seek to achieve a positive impact on aims to reduce youth violence and increase community safety through preventative approaches, by increasing the quality, capacity, and confidence of practitioners at all levels of relevant organisations.

  During January 2021 the VRU facilitated virtual training for around 100 practitioners from social care and youth justice, as well as statutory and community sector youth workers, focused on understanding the role of social media on youth violence. The aims of the sessions were to enable practitioners to understand different self platforms and how children use them, how young people develop networks on social media and guidance on minimising risk and supporting young people to understand and avoid risks.

For more information about progress made with implementing recommendations from the 2020 SNA, please refer to the NNVRU's Annual Report 2021.

New Recommendations for 2021 and beyond

Whilst the majority of the themes and recommendations from the previous SNA remain ongoing, the research and engagement NNVRU has conducted in the last nine months, as well as current events, have led to additional recommendations:

- **Increase our understanding the impact of COVID-19**

The current COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its associated lockdowns, has had a huge effect on patterns of violence in the NNVRU area and the longer-term impact is not clear at this point.

New Recommendation 1: continue to examine the impact of COVID-19 as data becomes available, providing interim update(s) to the SNA where appropriate. Ensure this examination reflects lived experience as well as data analysis.

- **Explore the factors that lead** to **males becoming perpetrators of violence**

Males form the vast majority of perpetrators of reported violence. Locally, as well as support for male victims of violence, there are interventions to work with boys showing evidence of displaying negative behaviours or attitudes that increase the risk factor for domestic abuse and violence (Equation, n.d.). There is a need for a greater understanding of how boys experiencing or witnessing domestic violence respond to this trauma and other ACEs. Why, in some cases, do they develop harmful beliefs and behaviours and in others go on to develop healthy and loving relationships in adulthood?

New Recommendation 2: to commission research into how boys' beliefs and behaviours develop in relation to violence and the extent to which boys who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence are more likely to develop harmful beliefs and behaviours and what factors provide greater resilience.

- **NNVRU to lead work to become a trauma informed Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**

The commitment of local agencies to developing a trauma-informed approach was reflected in the NNVRU Board decision in October 2020 to adopt a trauma-informed framework for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. The approach is supported by both the 2020 SNA and national literature (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020). This is a long-term aspiration that needs to be understood at every organisational level so that decision-makers design services that are appropriate, and frontline staff have the skills and confidence to meet the needs of service users who have experienced trauma. The next year will see the introduction of a training package with modules for practitioners and for managers. The development of a joint, strategic approach will ensure that good practice is embedded at the heart of delivery and continues to evolve to meet the needs of citizens.

New Recommendation 3: NNVRU will support the development of an embedded, trauma-informed practice through:

a) A Trauma-Informed Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and

b) The development of a suite of learning tools for practitioners, managers, leaders and other stakeholders in the voluntary and community, private and public sectors.

- **Exploring the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Violence**
The Literature Review highlighted that whilst tools to identify ACEs are increasingly seen as useful way of identifying risk, it is a relatively new approach and there have been concerns that it is insufficiently understood and can be used inappropriately (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020) (Wales NHS, 2020).

New Recommendation 4: NNVRU will further explore the impact of ACEs on violence within communities as a response to trauma (perpetrator) (see recommendation 2 above) and as an ongoing risk (victim) including interventions to break the cycle of violence within communities.

- **Improving Data Quality**
In light of some of the continuing gaps in local data highlighted in both the 2020 SNA and this update, NNVRU will work with partners to improve data quality.

New Recommendation 5: NNVRU commit to:

- Work with partners to improve the quality of ethnicity data in key datasets to support improved analysis of the impact of serious violence on different ethnic groups. This will involve both working with agencies to improve data collection, and with communities to build mutual trust in the provision of personal data and its use.
- Support the further development of the Emergency Care Dataset and the integration of assault victim data from in Emergency Departments into future work.
- Work with Alternative Education providers to provide data that enables analysis of the progress of young people attending such provision with those attending mainstream schools. As identified last year, data on school-aged young people attending alternative education provision is not consistently shared and the data quality is inconsistent limiting the ability to interrogate the data received by local authorities.

- **Trusted Adult Relationships**
There is a growing body of research into the value to children in having a relationship with an adult they can trust when they are experiencing, or have experienced, adverse life experiences (ACEs). That may mean that having an adult being available when they need to talk but increasingly the emphasis is being placed on the value of longer-term relationships with trusted adults (Lewing, et al., 2018). In the main, this will involve immediate family members but, where there is a deficit, there may be a role for others such as "…*sports coaches, street outreach*

workers, workplace mentors, youth workers or other community adults" (Whitehead, et al., 2019). The Home Office's Trusted Relationship Fund pilot programme will end in March 2022 and further evidence should be provided by the evaluation (Home Office Safeguarding Unit, 2018). In addition, there is the concern that children (and also practitioners) suffer when the services they receive, such as social care, are delivered by a stream of different practitioners either due to staff turnover or rotation, or to the provision of a range of services (Le Grand, 2007). These three broad approaches may all be beneficial but the research suggests that how this supported is structured and delivered is key (Lewing, et al., 2018). NNVRU has commissioned the National Youth Agency to develop high standards in youth work and a better understanding of trusted adult relationships could add value to this work in addition to informing practice in other services.

New Recommendation 6: NNVRU will conduct an audit of professional adult relationship schemes and practice inclusive of mentoring and youth work in the NNVRU area, and with other VRUs, to identify good practice to be shared with practitioners locally and more widely.

- **Early Intervention to Prevent Entering Youth Justice System**
  A review of case notes conducted by the City Youth Justice Service looked at the experience of service users with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). It looked specifically at those diagnosable, but not diagnosed, with neuro-diverse conditions. Initial findings suggest that although professionals have raised concerns at much earlier dates, some young people are not receiving a diagnosis and appropriate support until entering the Youth Justice System with early intervention opportunities being missed. This insight needs to be explored more fully before any conclusions are drawn.

  New Recommendation 6: NNVRU will support the same case note review in Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service, review the findings of the project and implications for improved practice including through closer working with the SEND Accountability Board.

- **Serious organised crime and violence**
  The SNA looks at the links between exploitation and violence with particular reference to the supply of drugs. Research in London (Wieshmann, et al., 2020) has identified that neighbourhoods with an organised crime presence are associated with high levels of violence. Discussions are currently taking place with Nottinghamshire Police and the University of Nottingham's Rights Lab on research proposals with regard to both modern slavery and organised crime.

  New Recommendation 7: NNVRU will work with Nottinghamshire Police and the Rights Lab to further understand the role that serious organised crime and slavery and exploitation play as drivers of violence in the NNRVU area.

Dissemination

A number of actions are planned to disseminate the findings of the SNA including:

- Submission to the Home Office as part of our commitment as a Violence Reduction Unit.
- Presentation to the Strategic Violence Reduction Board with an expectation that Board members will support dissemination in their respective organisations.
- Feedback to stakeholders through tailored presentations as well as sharing a copy of the SNA.
- Publication on the NNVRU website, and
- The production of an 'accessible' version of the SNA to share with local communities.

A Strategic Needs Assessment of Serious Violence in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County: 2021 Update

Part I

SNA Supplement & the Impact of COVID-19

v. 1.c

Guide to the 2021 Update

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In updating that document, the VRU has taken the view that the SNA should have two functions. Firstly, it should be an up-to-date reference tool for those looking for data and information about violence and violence reduction in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The wealth of information contained in the 2020 document has been updated as far as is possible; COVID-19 has meant that not all previously used datasets are still available. On the other hand, it has been possible to include some additional information which was either not available earlier or which feedback suggested would be of value. All of that information is contained in **Part 2** entitled **Data, Charts and Tables Updated.**
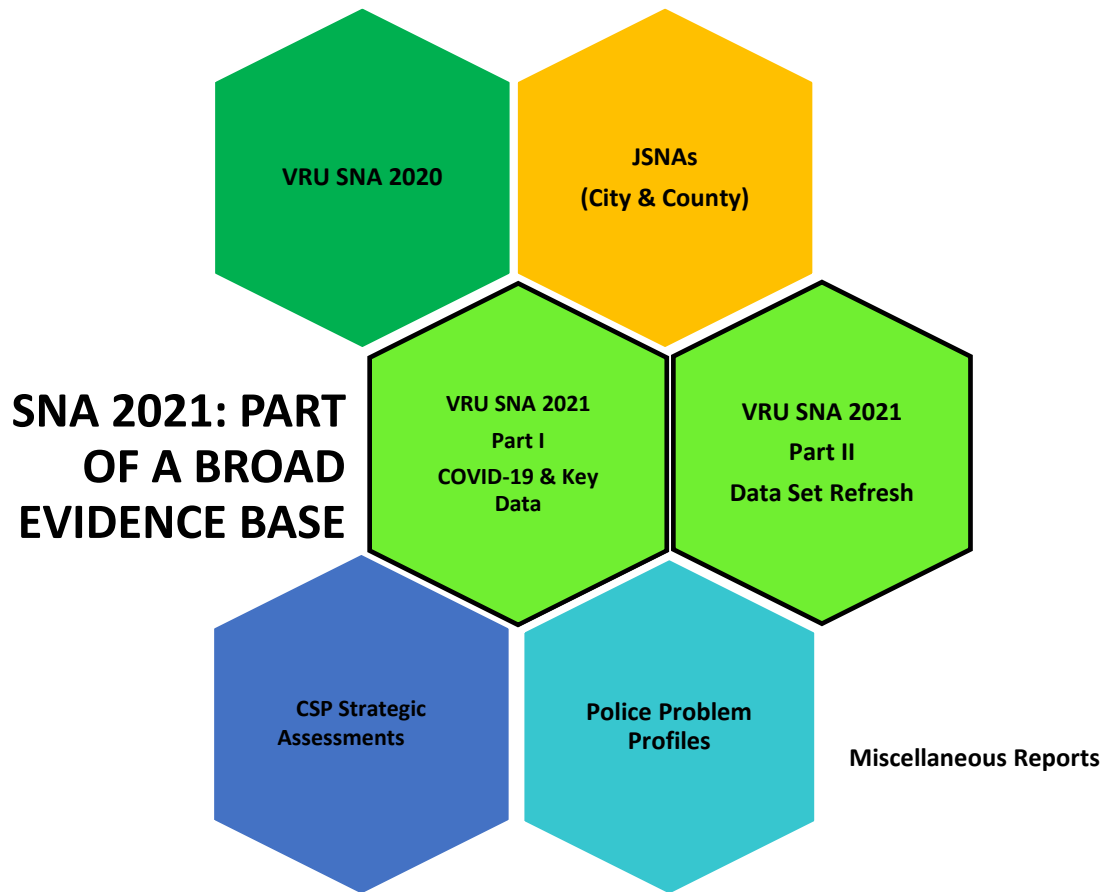
Secondly, it should also be a document that supports practitioners as well as policy and decision makers in shaping approaches to violence reduction. The **SNA Supplement & the Impact of COVID-19 (Part 1)** is therefore constructed as a companion to the data updates and across a number of areas of interest attempts to:

- Understand the impact of COVID-19 and the uncertainty that it is creating;
- Summarise key datasets emphasising significant changes - and also continuity where that seems notable;
- Refresh the Literature Review to identify new themes and learning;
- Expand on the SNA using new data and adding themes that there was insufficient time for previously, or which have emerged since then.

It is hoped that those with an interest in violence reduction will wish to read the Supplement to refresh their thinking and then use it to inform the development and delivery of services that reduce harm.

Partnership working means that both single agencies and partnerships are continually updating their needs assessment and problem profiles to support their approach to evolving circumstances and building on each other's findings. This document directly or indirectly references many sources, of which joint services needs assessments (JSNAs), community safety partnership (CSP) strategic needs assessments and police and other problem profiles are key.

SNA 2021: PART OF A BROAD EVIDENCE BASE

- VRU SNA 2020
- JSNAs (City & County)
- VRU SNA 2021 Part I COVID-19 & Key Data
- VRU SNA 2021 Part II Data Set Refresh
- CSP Strategic Assessments
- Police Problem Profiles
- Miscellaneous Reports

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Violence Reduction, COVID-19 and the Future

Impact of COVID-19 on the SNA

The first NNVRU SNA (2020) used data going back a number of years to compare previous performance and to identify trends in demographics and other factors. Refreshing the Strategic Needs Assessment takes place against the background of a massive, ongoing disruption event; namely, the COVID-19 pandemic.

This has inevitably impacted on the refresh of the SNA in a number of ways. Some datasets included previously could not be updated either because agencies were unable to collect the data or because that activity did not occur.

Where data continued to be collected, for instance in the case of crime data, the picture it tells of the period from March 2020 describes a very different world. Violence in the City Centre fell substantially as a result of shops, bars, restaurants and other entertainment being closed. National research indicates that violence and harassment by current partners increased whilst that by former partners fell, presumably reflecting changes in the opportunity for abuse and violence.

Understanding the local picture is complex because the way that services to survivors had to change so data can be skewed by the ability to access services. This needs to be borne in mind when looking at the following information from Juno Women's Aid Helpline, but it does include emails and missed calls. It shows an increasing number of calls in the months preceding the pandemic but a sharp drop in April and May followed by a surge in the following months that led to an overall increase of 58% compared to the previous year.

Figure 1 Juno Women's Aid Helpline: answered, missed calls and emails

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Needs Assessment Update 2021
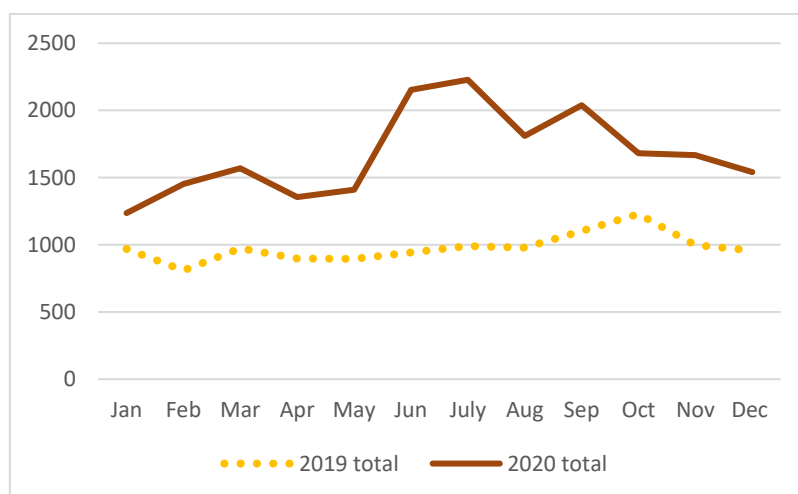
Whilst the changes may be informative about the impact of COVID-19, and add to our understanding about the violence and its relationship to other factors such as the night-time economy (NTE), it is not useful as a measure of effectiveness of the violence reduction strategy or the work of agencies to reduce violence. Whilst it will have an enormous impact on what the future looks like, it does not provide a template for that future.

The following section maps out, in broad terms, how the pandemic has impacted violence reduction in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham and also what risks and opportunities it has created.

Impact of COVID-19 on Violence and Violence Reduction

Individuals, families and communities have suffered during the pandemic, primarily through the illness and deaths the virus has caused, but also the deprivations caused by the loss of education, employment and opportunities and the important social activities that contribute to our physical and mental health.

The Police and Crime Needs Assessment produced by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and currently (20 January 2021) in draft, makes a number of points about the impact of COVID-19 and that are all to varying degrees relevant to understand the landscape of violence reduction:

- The 2020 assessment details the significant impact that the Coronavirus pandemic and consequential lockdown have had on the nature and risk of crime and anti-social behaviour. This has included temporary reductions in the majority of traditional crime types, a shift in spatial crime patterns, increases in risk at a domestic and neighbourhood level and evidence of rises in levels of online victimisation, fraud and the exploitation of vulnerable people.

- Coronavirus restrictions inhibited the reach and quality of some aspects of service, particularly in managing complex and chaotic offenders, supporting vulnerable victims and progressing criminal justice outcomes. Despite these challenges, the pandemic provided a catalyst for significant improvements in digital and agile

working across many organisations which have served to enhance efficiency, resilience and aspects of service user experience.

- Our ability to reliably forecast trends in crime and ASB has been significantly impaired by the pandemic. It is highly likely, however, that the coming year will see further acceleration in the presentation of vulnerability and complex need related to offending, victimisation and safeguarding, largely concentrated in areas of already high deprivation and disadvantage. This is likely to be compounded by ongoing rises in financial hardship, mental health-related demand and reductions in public sector budgets.

- Risks relating to the exploitation of vulnerable people increased markedly during the Coronavirus lockdown, although this was also coupled with an increase in levels of community intelligence. 2020 saw marked increases in the number of young people and vulnerable adults identified as being exploited, including cases of 'cuckooing' and County Lines exploitation.

- Reductions in anti-social behaviour linked to the Night Time Economy (NTE) in 2020 were offset by more disparate increases in ASB at a neighbourhood level, primarily involving neighbourhood nuisance and noise. Levels of reported violent crime fell markedly during the period of COVID-19 restrictions. However, it is not clear to what extent levels of hidden harm have been affected. Partner agencies should be aware of the potential impact of neglect, isolation, abuse, and exploitation that some individuals may have experienced during the COVID-19lockdown and any hidden harm that may be yet to present to local agencies.

- The prevalence of cyber and cyber-enabled crimes continued to increase during 2020 alongside a marked shift in lifestyles towards online shopping, working and socialising. The proportion of crime that has a digital element is likely to continue to grow for the foreseeable future, requiring greater levels of specialist investigation and expertise.

How the world rebuilds itself after the pandemic cannot be predicted but the SNA refresh has highlighted a number of areas that represent risks or opportunities in months to come, especially at the point that life becomes less dominated by COVID-19.

- Bereavement has been identified as impacting on young people's development and increasing their vulnerability. Whilst the loss of a key caregiver is particularly significant, young people can be deeply affected by the loss of grandparents and other family members. The pandemic not only increases the likelihood of bereavement in a young person's life but may have exacerbating factors such as the lack of contact before death and limits on funeral arrangements.

- Other adverse experiences will have happened in children's lives often in relative isolation and with reduced contact with agencies that may have identified concerns and linked in with relevant services;

- Conversely, some people, particularly children, may have found that lockdown and other aspects of the pandemic provided some respite from pressures in their lives. Some data suggests a fall in self-harming may result from this and there is some evidence that young people were able to escape situations of anxiety and pressure on the streets. They may find the ease of restrictions problematic.

- The move to online living has been referenced in consultation in leading to increases in online sexual exploitation and grooming.

- Trust and confidence in police and other agencies appears to have increased in some sections of communities but with other groups feeling more alienated;

- Young people, in initiation to the general experience of COVID-19, have had much of their education online and for many the experience of exam result confusion was made worse by the sense that children from lower income families were being disadvantaged. This could have particular implication for young people whose commitment to education was already tenuous.

The impact of COVID-19 on both the availability of data and the virus's impact on people's lives and communities runs through every chapter of this document. Future research will be required to understand what happened both during and also in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Local Views

Frontline Workers' Perceptions of the Impact of COVID-19 on Young People and Communities

The 2020 SNA Local Views section included knowledge garnered from a combination of sources; focus groups, interviews and case studies with the aim being of adding context and depth to the picture outlined by the data and to root the project in the lived experience of real people. In the period since then, the VRU's ability to engage with and involve local communities has been hampered by the pandemic and the constraints it imposed. Several engagement-based research projects funded by the VRU are due to report later in 2021 and this approach will continue to be central. For this 2021 SNA, the priority has been to assess the impact of COVID-19. Community members and community organisations are often aware of changes on the ground in advance of that knowledge filtering through into official data. Representatives of the following were approached directly with an email link to a survey:

- Ending Youth Violence Network;
- VRU Ambassadors;
- Community projects commissioned by the VRU;
- Research projects commissioned by the VRU (for early feedback).

All of these were invited to share this with other practitioners.

The consultation provided a short set of questions. Whilst mainly intended as a prompt for narrative responses some were quantifiable. There were 14 responses in total. This relatively low response rate was expected as the recipients are, in the main, busy practitioners, who are often bombarded with information requests. The responses received contained valuable qualitative information that in some cases was completely new evidence and on a number of points, confirmed or qualified, national or other evidence (Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit, 2021). Due to the small number of responses, quantitative analysis was not undertaken.

There were eight questions to which respondents were encouraged to provide commentary.

Has violence increased or decreased during the pandemic?

Respondents reported a mixed pattern here with a consensus that Nottingham City Centre violence was reduced but that there had been some increases in suburban and town settings. This is not at odds with police data that shows an uneven pattern outside of the more urban areas. There was also a sense that, whilst the first lockdown had led to significant reductions in violence, in the current situation (December 2020/January 2021) there were increasing problems variously described as arising from "boredom", "lack of things to do" or "frustration".

Have young people felt safer or more at risk?

A number of respondents indicated that, for some young people, lockdown had led to them feeling safer and that they "*appreciated having clarity about what they can and can't do and also feel they can make COVID the excuse not to be leaving the home and drawn into violence or offending in general*" and also "*many feel anxious walking to and from school, so during lockdown that was respite for them*". There was some suggestion that those young people still 'out and about' felt more vulnerable and "*more targeted*". Where respondents felt young people were less safe, was where there was stress and violence in the home. Almost all respondents emphasised the pressures that the pandemic was putting on young people's mental health as they were deprived of vital social and other activity.

Have adults felt safer or more at risk?

Most respondents had less to say about adults as they work with young people. There was a sense that this was also a mixed picture and concern about the impact in the home setting in relation to domestic abuse and the use of drugs and alcohol.

Has the experience of girls and women been different to boys and men?

Answers to this question provided a wide range of different perspectives. A number of replies referenced the economic impact of COVID-19 on women, particularly single mothers, and that this could be additional stress when dealing with challenging behaviour from bored and frustrated children. There was also a common awareness of increased domestic abuse.

In regard to girls, the role of social media was mentioned as problematic in a couple of ways and the implication was that this situation has worsened during the pandemic. More than one respondent reported that there had been an increase in sexual grooming of girls. Social media was also seen as the catalyst for girls being drawn into violence. There were reports of large groups of girls converging on Nottingham city centre to settle scores and that some of this appears to be 'postcode'-related conflicts between different neighbourhoods. It was felt that younger girls (around 14-15 years old) were now hanging out with older boys and getting involved in problem behaviour. It was also felt that the city centre was seeing more concerning behaviour from girls from outside of the City.

Has there been more hate crime or less?

The question was premised on reports of hostility to people of East Asian appearance due to the virus origins being linked to China and contra-indications that the pandemic had strengthened the sense of community. While one comment was that BAMER communities were being blamed for the virus, there were comments that at a secondary school there had been "noticeable increase in racist language towards black and mixed heritage staff at school, and towards students" this was echoed by two community organisations: one of which reported more racist comments about "them and us" and another that they had seen incidents where girls with hijabs were abused and even spat at. It was also noted that this

period has also featured the Black Lives Matter movement globally and locally and that this and other political context might be the driver for such racism rather than the pandemic.

Do you think there have been changes to drug dealing or other violent crimes?

The answers to this question were less clear cut, although there a number of responses felt that the demand for drugs had increased as a result of the pandemic and that dealers had developed new ways of delivering drugs. It was also suggested that the need to operate differently had meant that dealers had had to recruit more young people to support this. There was a further suggestion that young people dealing or delivering drugs were at greater risk of harm than previously, but it wasn't clear why. One community organisation reported that after an initial lull with the first lockdown, the situation was now worse that before lockdown with more people growing drugs to sell and more infighting between groups that were growing and distributing drugs.

One community organisation reported a worrying pattern of increased absences, with young people missing for a number of days at a time. This behaviour is risky in itself but may also be linked to sexual exploitation and/or County Lines.

One secondary school reported that after the first lockdown they had to deal with a massive increase in conflict from families and communities that spilled into school, and also that children returning to school were exhibiting more aggressive behaviour and that boundaries and norms of behaviour had to be re-established.

Additionally, there was further references to an increase in harmful sexual behaviour exploited through technology and accelerated by potential victims' increased online presence.

How different were the first lockdown, the summer and the later Tier 3 and second lockdown?

Views about the difference between lockdowns were the one area where responses appeared contradictory. There was a view that, whilst the first lockdown was effective as people were concerned about the virus, by the second lockdown many were less concerned and more frustrated and felt 'dictated to', whilst another response was that the second lockdown was being treated more seriously. This could reflect when individuals completed the survey as it was open from shortly before Christmas until the 18th January 2021, during which time public levels of concern appear to have increased. One respondent highlighted that, particularly in the first lockdown, many young people lacked effective internet access so were severely isolated. Tier 3 arrangements were very different in that schools were functioning so that much of life for young people appeared more normal.

There was a serious concern expressed that lockdowns had a cumulative effect on children's mental health, especially when lockdown meant being trapped in abusive or otherwise negative situations.

Is there anything else that you are concerned about when you think about what the next few months will be like?

A number of serious concerns were raised here.

There is a fear that young people have an increasing appetite for risk as a result of the frustrations of the current period and that they will be both at risk of violence and more vulnerable to exploitation, both as lockdown continues and as restrictions are relaxed. Reference was made to this being exacerbated because many support services are not currently available or operating as they would wish, and at a time when social care and other services have been stretched by COVID-19 and are having to cope with increased demand and delivering under COVID-19 regulations.

Respondents reemphasised earlier points about the ongoing impact on mental health and the dangerous situation for those in households with violence. One respondent commented specifically on the risk of suicide amongst men who may lack appropriate support.

A worrying observation from two organisations was that young people feel that the pandemic and the way that exam results were handled has led to a widespread loss of belief in the importance of education and a sense that they have not been well supported.

Finally, it was suggested that, while support services will come out of the pandemic drained and depleted, organised criminals will see opportunities and reduced barriers to violent crime and exploitation.

Literature Review Update

Methodology

Building on the work of the previous SNA, this literature search explores the research and literature that has been published since March 2020. The search again included academic healthcare databases and open-searching through Google, as well as reports released by our local partners and trusted voluntary sector organisations. The search criteria for this literature search were the same as in the previous SNA. search was conducted over three weeks in November 2019.

Search terms: "knife crime" OR "violent crime" OR "sexual violence" OR "night-time economy" OR "gangs" OR "county lines"; *Paired with:* "intervention" OR "prevention" OR "approach[1]"

Databases: EMBASE, CINAHL and Medline via NICE HDAS; Athens; Google Scholar; The Cochrane Library; The Campbell Library; and Google.

In the same vein as last year, literature was assessed for selection in relation to being informative to Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, such as being from a similar UK context or nationally recognised programmes. A pragmatic approach was taken to include articles with preliminary findings about the impacts of COVID-19 on serious violence, and the changes in patterns of domestic violence. This approach was informed by local intelligence the NNVRU received from its stakeholders.

As in the 2020 SNA, the explicit exclusions were for literature reporting on specific gun/firearm interventions, specific family, domestic and honour-based violence and clinical treatment. Literature was also excluded from non-comparable contexts such as low-income countries.

Literature

ACE Support Hub Annual Report 2019-20, Cymru Well Wales, July 2020

An annual report detailing the latest progress of the work of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Support Hub, supported by the Welsh Government, to make public services in Wales ACE aware. The Hub was founded in 2027, and two thirds of all schools in Wales have now received Phase 1 ACE Awareness training, and 75% of public sector workers know of the term ACEs. However, only 36% feel they have the knowledge and skills to prevent ACEs in their current role.

Adverse childhood experiences, what we know, what we don't know, and what should happen next, Early Intervention Foundation, February 2020
This report aims to improve understanding of the impact of ACEs on children's development. The ACE evidence base is examined in terms of its quality and the conclusions which have followed. The strength of evidence underpinning common responses to ACEs, including routine ACE screening and trauma informed care are also considered. Despite increases in our understanding of ACEs, many questions remain. Currently, we do not know the prevalence of ACEs, their effect on physical outcomes, the

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[1] Term "approach" used in knife crime review search only

implications for preventing and reducing ACEs, the benefits of screening practices and the potential for trauma informed care to reduce ACE-related trauma and improve children and families' outcomes. Recommendations for the next steps include increasing access to evidence-based interventions such as activities preventing ACEs occurring, activities preventing the social processes thought to perpetuate ACEs and therapies which treat trauma symptoms.

Briefing: Children, domestic abuse and coronavirus, Children's commissioner, April 2020
This briefing considers the effects of domestic abuse on children and also the impact of the COVID pandemic on domestic abuse. In light of increasing demand, a need for additional funding is highlighted for national and local helplines and for local authorities. The need for a powerful public campaign is outlined. It is suggested the campaign would set out what domestic abuse is, that it is never acceptable, and the impact it has on children. This campaign would speak to the victims, the perpetrators and to communities.

Building trusted relationships for vulnerable children and young people with public services Lewing, B., Doubell, L., Beevers, T. & Acquah, D., 2018.: Early Intervention Foundation
A rapid review of research into the value of trusted adult relationships. Home Office commissioned the report to support the launch in 2018 of its Trusted Relationships Fund. The literature in the main was in relation to child sexual exploitation or abuse. The conclusions were that whilst there was a clear rationale for the impact of trusted relationships, there was at this point a lack of empirical data demonstrating efficacy. There was stronger evidence of what elements contributed to a positive relationship.

Bystander interventions to prevent intimate partner and sexual violence: summary, Public Health England, December 2020
This summary, released by the UK Government in December 2020, outlines basic principles and effective interventions that organisations, practitioners, and the general public should consider when addressing intimate partner and sexual violence. Individuals should feel empowered to: notice and be aware of the event; see the event or behaviour as a problem; feel responsible and motivated to act; have the necessary skills to be able to intervene safely and effectively. The report also includes reference to a rapid evidence review by PHE into different interventions in the US and the UK into different projects designed to prevent sexual violence, including STOP Dating Violence, Green Dot and Mentors in Violence Prevention.

Changing inequality in exposure to crime webinar, Understanding Inequalities, October 2020
This webinar looks at how crime has fallen in the UK in the last decade but the distribution of crime has become increasingly unequal and concentrated within vulnerable groups and communities. It explores inequality in offending and victimisation and how this varies

across people and places. It also provides insights into drivers of crime inequality and identifies key lessons for policing policy and practice. The interplay between inequality, crime and policing and how this may differ in the COVID-19 recovery period is considered.

[Contextual Safeguarding. A Nottinghamshire Response,](#) Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
A brief guide to safeguarding issues affecting children, including indicators of vulnerability and exploitation and links to local agencies and organisations who work with vulnerable children and their families. The guide provides information about each of the areas of Contextual Safeguarding risk. It is based on a guide prepared for social workers but includes action points that apply across the partnership.

[Coronavirus and crime in England and Wales,](#) Office for National Statistics, August 2020
This report explores the perceived and actual decreases in certain types of crime during lockdown in April and May 2020, especially in the night-time economy and acquisitive crime due to the lack of opportunity. Steep increases in drug-related offences were attributed to a proactive approach on the part of the police to pursue these crimes during lockdown. Early figures also appear to confirm that there has been an increase in incidences of domestic violence.

[Covid-19: understanding inequalities in mental health during the pandemic,](#) Centre for Mental Health, June 2020
The Centre for Mental Health led a group of charities to create this briefing on how the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown have increased mental health inequalities in the UK. The worst affected groups were found to be those already most vulnerable before the pandemic, namely, BAME groups, women and children experiencing domestic violence and those with pre-existing mental health conditions. It recommends that the government increase support to communities with higher risk of mental health problems, taking measures to protect access to food and medicine for those with pre-existing mental health problems, and stronger measures to prevent homelessness.

Cycles of violence in England and Wales: the contribution of childhood abuse to risk of violence victimisation in adulthood, BMC Medicine, November 2020
This paper details the link between experiences of child abuse and the likelihood of experiencing physical assault both in and outside intimate relationships, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence victimisation. Based on a survey of 21,845 people, it found individuals who had experienced one form of abuse were twice as likely to experience abuse when adults, whilst individuals who experienced multiple types were "three, six, and seven times more likely to experience physical assault, intimate partner violence and sexual violence victimisation respectively". It suggests that focusing efforts to reduce child abuse could result in much reduced rates of abuse further along the life course.

Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions: Extended Rapid Evidence Assessment (Report to NNVRU Strategic Board – Dr Andy Newton et al
This review of 58 studies found evidence of 'what works' to be inconclusive but pointed to a need for multi-agency, multi-strand programmes that consider the needs of victims and families as well as offenders. Given the complexity of interventions there is a need for skilled, experienced staff. A key factor in effectiveness was completion of the intervention, which was a problem in non-mandatory courses.

Evidence briefing: Racial bias is pulling Black young adults into an avoidable cycle of crisis and crime, Revolving Doors Agency, August 2020
The Revolving Doors Agency looks at the increasing disparity between the criminal justice system's treatment of black young people and the rest of the population. It examines how black people are several times more likely than the general population to be criminalised for 'revolving door offences', that is, relatively minor non-violent offences such as drug possession and theft. The population as a whole is more likely than it was 10 years ago to receive an immediate custodial as opposed to a community sentence but this trend has especially affected black offenders.

Experiences of Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence in the Covid-19 Pandemic, Rachel Condry et al, August 2020
Produced by a partnership between the Filial Violence Project, the Centre for Criminology, the University of Oxford, and the University of Manchester, this paper provides initial evidence of the incidence of child and adolescent to parent violence (C/APV) during the first COVID-19 lockdown. Initial findings were that 70 per cent of parents and 69 per cent of practitioners reported an increase in incidences, with 64 per cent of practitioners reporting a rise in severity. The stresses and confinements of lockdown were largely to blame for this. However, 29 per cent of parents reported a decrease in abuse, this being explained by a decrease in exposure to trigger and stress factors.

Final Report to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Youth Commission, July 2020
The youth-led process used by Notts Youth Commission members gather views of young people is called the 'Big Conversation. This report is based on conversations with over 2,400 young people from across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire between 2019-2020. The members designed interactive workshops that focus on the conversation and developed materials to capture the views, opinions and solution of the participants. The Notts Youth Commission members identified knife crime, stop and search, and exploitation and abuse as priorities. Each priority is considered with a comprehensive analysis of young people's opinions and the key recommendation based on the findings. The report is intended to support any future actions by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Police and relevant partner agencies.

How Black Working Class Youth are Criminalised and Excluded in the English School System, Institute of Race Relations, September 2020
This news article examines the link between exclusions and attendance to alternative provisions and involvement in violent crime, particularly focusing in the 'criminalisation' of BAME youth. It finds the 'academisation' of schools and marketisation of alternative

provision have led to a tendency to offload difficult cases of bad behaviour. They also argue that increased security measures in schools have made it harder for children to feel safe, and encouraged the view that they are inherently dangerous places.

[Identifying the Extent of Exposure to ACEs in Young People Open to the Youth Offending Team (YOT),](#) Nottingham City Council Youth Offending Team, 2018
This brief summary by the Nottingham City Council Youth Offending Team details an ACEs survey the YOT conducted with its service users which, amongst other findings, revealed that 90 per cent of young people in their service had encountered parental separation, 84.3 per cent verbal abuse and 54.3 per cent physical abuse. It also explores the evidence behind Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), especially multiple ACEs are multiple times more likely to develop harmful behaviour as adults.

[Inside the Adverse Childhood Experience Score: Strengths, Limitations, and Misapplications](#), Anda et al, March 2020
This short paper considers the ACE score, its current uses along with their appropriateness and weaknesses. The paper considers the ACE score as being useful in research and surveillance studies. However, the score is not a standardised measure of childhood exposure to the biology of stress which can vary widely from person to person. Concern is raised that the scores can be used inappropriately as screening or diagnostic tools to confer individual risk and in treatment algorithms to assign population-based risk of health outcomes to individuals.

[Keeping children safe in education. Statutory guidance for schools and colleges,](#) Department for Education, September 2020
Statutory guidance for schools and colleges when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This guidance highlights legal requirements and when the advice should be followed unless there is a good reason not to.

Learning: Ending Gang and Youth Violence Programme, Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership, July 2018
This report on the learning from Vanguard Plus, part of the Ending Gang and Youth Violence (EGYV) Programme was requested by the CPD Executive to inform responses to knife crime. Vanguard Plus was mainstreamed at the end of 2016 without an end of programme evaluation. This report is a brief review of the key learning from Vanguard Plus to aid service planning.

Recommendations for the CPD executive include learning for future service development of similar offender management programmes, multi-agency teams, the gap in provision for 18-25 year olds and the importance of intelligence gathering and sharing. It also noted the complexity of measuring the effectiveness of the EGYV in particular relation to the future identification and management of those caught up in knife crime, such as offenders, victims, siblings etc.

Learning from case reviews – national publications, **Nottingham Safeguarding Children Partnership, June 2020**

This bulletin considers three recent national publications which contain important learning from child safeguarding case reviews. The first is *Complexity and challenge: A triennial analysis of serious case reviews 2014-2017*. The main areas of learning from this report include neglect and its relation to poverty, vulnerable adolescents and multiagency working. The second, *The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2018 – 2019,* gives an insight into the work of the panel and provides a useful summary of key themes and messages emanating from a study of "rapid reviews" completed by Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. *Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation* is the first National Child Safeguarding Practice Review undertaken by the National Panel. It focuses on service response to children already drawn into criminal exploitation and where high levels of risk of serious harm have been identified.

Life on Hold: Children's Wellbeing and COVID-19, **The Children's Society, July 2020**

Exploring the impact on children and young people's lives of COVID-19 and the lockdown, this report using the results of the Children's Society's annual survey conducted this year from April to June. Some of the biggest fears were the long-term impacts on educational attainment and the effects of loneliness and isolation and not being able to see friends and family. According to the charity's multi-indicator measure of life satisfaction, a greater number of children have scored below the midpoint, indicating some may have had a decrease in their mental wellbeing due to the current situation. Whilst, young people as a whole have showed a lot of resilience in the face of these challenges, around half of households expect a long-term negative effect on children and adults.

Living through a lockdown. Reflections and recommendations from young people at risk of serious violence, **Street Doctors, Redthread & Mac UK September 2020**

This report focuses on young people's experiences of lockdown. Young people who were already in touch with our organisations, those victims of, or at risk of, experiencing youth violence were surveyed. The safeguarding implications of lockdown, their fears for the future, and the positive elements of this strange time in society were considered. Even within this focused demographic, experiences and responses varied greatly. Key priority areas for young people were identified and wider themes were developed and considered. The report also listed recommendations based on their findings.

Mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic: longitudinal analyses of adults in the UK COVID-19 Mental Health & Wellbeing study, Current Awareness Service for Health, November 2020

This article in the British Journal of Psychology is a study of the effects the first six weeks of the Covid-19 lockdown on mental health, focusing on pre-existing mental health problems, suicide attempts and self-harm, suicidal ideation, depression, anxiety, defeat, entrapment, mental well-being and loneliness. Whilst depressive symptoms overall did not increase significantly, and there were even increases in reported positive wellbeing in some parts of the population, the study did find negative effects on the mental health and wellbeing of the adult population, including increasing rates of suicidal thoughts.

National Youth Agency 'Hidden in Plain Sight' - A Youth Work Response to Gangs and Exploitation during COVID-19, National Youth Agency, June 2020
An examination of the reported fall in gang-related violence during lockdown, looking at how this may disguise higher levels of exploitation of young people by gangs who have been able to take advantage of their increased vulnerability during this period. The authors explore the indicators of vulnerability and makes various recommendations including the use of early intervention to address the problems and the primary role of young workers to engage with vulnerable young people who may not feel comfortable working with more formal services.

Partnership Knife Crime Profile, Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership, July 2020
This report by the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership shows that the overall the volume of knife crimes has gradually decreased, with the average monthly volume of offences reducing in the 18-month period to June 2020 compared to the 18-month period prior to June 2019, with significant reductions in March 2020. Medium-term comparisons of knife crime offences between localities indicate that the decrease is currently being driven by the City. The main driver of knife crime volume reduction is the 19% reduction in knife-enabled violent assaults (July 2019 to June 2020) when compared to the previous twelve months.

[Routes to Recovery: Rebuilding the criminal justice system in England and Wales after the pandemic](), Criminal Justice Alliance, August 2020
This paper explores the challenges COVID-19 for various parts of the criminal justice system including in the prisons, the courts, the police, probation, resettlement and the increased vulnerability of prisoners and victims. It includes sections on government communication with prisons about the various COVID-19 restrictions, the exasperation of the digital divide and its impact on services, issues around funding, mental health and wellbeing, and substance misuse services and drug policy. It goes on to make a series of recommendations, including recommending funding is provided for a women's centre in every local authority area to help reduce crime and the female prison population, ensuring that services which support black, Asian and minority ethnic women who are victims of crime are sustainably funded and implementing sentencing policies that recognise the link between domestic abuse and offending, with a focus on community sentences and women's centres as a more effective response.

[Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation,]() Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, 2020
This review aims to identify what might be done differently by practitioners to improve approaches to protecting children who find themselves threatened with violence and serious harm by criminal gangs. It focuses on the service response to children who have already been drawn into criminal exploitation and where high levels of risk of serious harm have been identified. A number of key learning points are identified for local leaders, including good practice seen in the fieldwork areas and from visits to areas with innovative

emerging practice. A framework is proposed to be trialled locally and evaluated and recommendations for change are identified at the national level.

[Securing a Brighter Future: The role of youth services in tackling knife crime](), All Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime & Violence Reduction, March 2020
A report of the results of a study by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime & Violence Reduction in which young people and practitioners are consulted about best practice for youth services in their role reducing knife crime. It makes four key recommendations; Conduct a national audit of youth services in England; Fund local authorities to invest in sustainable long-term youth work; introduce a clear statutory requirement to local authorities for a minimum level of professional youth services provision; and invest in a professional youth workforce.

[Spotlight On…Exploitation, County Lines, Threats and Weapons: Learning from Two Serious Case Reviews,]() Vulnerability, Knowledge and Practice Programme, July 2020
This spotlight briefing reflects on the operational and/or strategic police practice learning drawn from two published Serious Case Reviews in context of the key relevant findings and recommendations around safeguarding children at risk of child criminal exploitation published by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in March 2020. Although this briefing is focused on police learning and opportunities for the police to strengthen practice to safeguard children at risk, the Serious Case Reviews also highlight learning for other agencies.

[Statistics Briefing: Harmful Sexual Behaviour,]() NSPCC Learning, February 2019
This briefing looks at what data and statistics are available about harmful sexual behaviour. The data and statistics are intended to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions about how best to meet the needs of children with harmful sexual behaviour. The NSPCC defines harmful sexual behaviour as developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children and young people. There is no universally agreed definition of what harmful sexual behaviour is, making comparisons between studies problematic.

[Supporting Vulnerable Children and Families During COVID-19,]() The Child Safeguarding Review Panel, December 2020
This practice briefing sets out key findings and recommendations from a thematic analysis of Rapid Reviews relating to serious child safeguarding incidents reported to the Panel between March and September 2020. The analysis shows that COVID-19 presents a situational risk for vulnerable children and families, with the potential to exacerbate pre-existing safeguarding risks, and bring about new ones. The learning from this analysis is intended to support leaders and practitioners as they continue to respond to the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Tackling Youth Unemployment, Talent Match
This evaluation report illustrates the nature of interventions that work effectively to support young people furthest from the labour market into secure employment. This report is an evaluation of the Young and Successful (YaS) project which was a five-year youth unemployment initiative operating between 2014-2018. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund the project had the freedom to work with a 'test and learn' ethos to help evolve effective interventions to get young people into employment. The report also lists key learning points which were created to help to inform the future legacy of projects targeted at young people furthest from the labour market.

[Technology and Domestic Abuse](), Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, November 2020
A brief post on Parliament.uk explaining the increasing role technologies such as smart phones and social media play in domestic abuse. Whilst it is acknowledged these technologies can be very useful for victims seeking help, the Refuge charity has reported 72% of the women it helps have experienced technology facilitated abuse.

[The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Child Welfare: Physical Abuse](), NSPCC, August 2020
This report by the NSPCC outlines the increase in reports of physical abuse of children during the initial COVID-19 lockdown. It compares data and qualitative research from the period before lockdown (6 January – 22 March) with the period during and immediately after (1 April to 31 July) and finds that the number of counselling sessions about physical abuse has increased by 22 per cent and the NSPCC helpline saw a 53% increase in contacts from people with concerns about children experiencing physical abuse.

The paper identifies the increased stress and pressure lockdown puts on families as a key cause in creating the conditions for physical conflict, as well as preventing children from escaping when physical abuse occurs. The paper concludes that the current legal defence of reasonable punishment for hitting a child to be abolished in England and Northern Ireland to lessen cultural confusion about appropriate parenting methods.

[The Prince's Trust Tesco Youth Index 2021](), The Prince's Trust, January 2021
This report contains the results of an annual survey by The Prince's Trust in which 2,180 young people aged 16-25 were asked questions about their wellbeing and confidence. It found that 10% of respondents were NEET, 50% reported that their mental health has worsened since the pandemic with 26% going so far as to say they feel unable to cope with life. However, many were motivated to make positive change, with many young people saying events in the past year, such as the Black Lives Matter movement and environmental protests, had made them determined to work for a better future.

The relationship between a trusted adult and adolescent health and education outcomes, Whitehead et al:, NHS Scotland.
A rapid evidence review struggled to find clear evidence of effectiveness, although it did find that young people themselves reported positively in favour of trusted adult

relationships and there was no evidence to suggest that relationships had a disbenefit. It also noted that the term was malleable, being used to describe a variety of arrangements. Amongst the barriers to successful relationships was noted a perception that the relationship might only be temporary.

The Role of Primary Schools in Early Intervention to Prevent Youth Violence Insights From Work in Two London Boroughs, Early Intervention Foundation, July 2020
This paper explores the way local systems support or undermine efforts to prevent violence, and to build capacity within local services. The role of primary schools and how well they identify the early signs of risk and support those children is considered through qualitative research. The paper highlights several opportunities to 'nudge' local systems in ways that may significantly improve the way they meet the needs of vulnerable children and their families, such as better integration into early help arrangements and creatively engaging with the voluntary and community sector. This work was completed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[We're All In This Together? Local Area Profiles of Child Vulnerability](#), Children's Commissioner, April 2020
The Children's Commissioner looked at the needs of children and young people who are especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation during the lockdown. Many children are potentially vulnerable due to difficulties their families were facing before lockdown. In addition, children assessed as lower risk are more likely to receive support through virtual contact. However additional pressure from COVID-19 can worsen a 'lower risk' situation; examples include children whose parents suffer from mental ill-health, young carers and children with SEND. Also, some children already known to be living in dangerous circumstances are experiencing neglect, abuse and serious harm. Children in care may be facing some additional difficulties, with those in unregulated settings being most vulnerable.

[What Works in Violence Prevention Among Young People? A Systematic Review of Reviews,](#) Kovalenko et al, July 2020
This is an overview of evaluated campus-based programmes to reduce violence among young people. The reviews were international, with the majority conducted in North America. This paper summarises common themes from different programmes and how to increase effectiveness. The study identified critical gaps in research and provides recommendations on how to optimise the effectiveness of future programs.

[1001 Days Baby Brain Facts Infographic,](#) Parent-Infant Foundation, 2020
The Parent-Infant Foundation stresses the importance of the first 1001 days of a child's life. This infographic pulls out some key facts and statistics to support the case for action. The resource is designed to enable clear, compelling and consistent arguments about the need for change.

Literature Search Key Findings

In refreshing the literature search, some of the main themes that arose were the effect of COVID-19 on domestic violence (DV) on other violent crime, and the impact on mental health. Other research reviewed considers the effectiveness of ACEs and the impact of ethnicity and experiences with crime and the criminal justice system.

COVID-19 and violent crime

Research on the long term impact of COVID-19 on wider patterns of violence is still in its infancy, but figures do generally show that knife crime and violence related to NTE did markedly decrease during the first lockdown (Office for National Statistics, 2020). However, some sources have warned that these apparent decreases in violence crime disguise higher levels of exploitation of young people being exploited by gangs, with COVID-19 and its associated lockdown exacerbating existing risk factors for exploitation (Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, 2020) (Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, 2020) (National Youth Agency, 2020).

COVID-19, Domestic Violence (DV) and physical abuse

The evidence around the impact of COVID-19 on rates of domestic violence and physical abuse is still preliminary. Published research reflects local intelligence in suggesting that DV incidences increased during the first COVID-19 lockdown, with domestic abuse charities reporting large increases in incidents. Research by the Filial Violence Project (Condry, et al., 2020) pointed to a 70% increase in cases of child-to-parent domestic violence. Sources generally blame the rise of DV and domestic abuse on the rise in stress factors and triggers for families already at risk, as well as the decreased opportunity for victims to escape or seek help (Children's Commissioner, 2020) (Condry, et al., 2020) (Allwood & Bell, 2020).

COVID-19 Lockdown and Mental Health

The COVID-19 lockdowns are having a marked effect on the mental health of the population, especially groups that were already more vulnerable. Mental wellbeing amongst younger people has suffered, with some reports showing an increase in suicidal ideation and apparent suicides (Allwood & Bell, 2020). According to a survey by The Prince's Trust (Prince's Trust, 2021), 50% of young people said that their mental health has worsened since the pandemic with 26% reporting they feel 'unable to cope with life'. Long-term impacts on educational attainment and the effects of isolation and not being able to see friends and family were two of the biggest concerns reported by young people and their carers.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Since the previous SNA, the published literature related to ACEs and their effect on later life has increased, with a strong 'dose effect' being observed in which those with multiple ACEs being multiple times more likely to be involved in serious violence later on in life (Nottingham City Council, 2018). The early years of a child's development were identified as particularly important. Conversely, other literature has expressed concern that 'ACEs tools' may be being used inappropriately as screening and diagnostic tools and seen as deterministic of poorer outcomes in adulthood. It is still unknown what the overall prevalence of ACEs is in the general population, or what the effects of screening for ACEs could be (Anda, et al., 2020), (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020).

Race, Ethnicity and the experience of Violent Crime and the Criminal Justice System
Research shows that ethnicity is still a key factor in the experience of Violent Crime and the Criminal Justice System (Borysik, 2020) (Morrell, 2020) (Perera, 2020). Whilst crime overall has decreased in the past 10 years, this masks the unequal distribution of crime with the most vulnerable groups, including people from BAME communities, continuing to be disproportionately affected. Black people are also several times more likely to be criminalised for minor offences with negative consequences for future prospects. Research shows that compared to the general population, Black people are more frequently given criminal sentences for 'revolving door offences', including minor non-violent offences like drug possession and theft (Bannister & McVie, 2020).

Context

Contextual data is included here if it covers all or part of the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. A broader range of measures is included in the original NNVRU SNA and in Part II of this document, the Data Refresh. Contextual data which has been excluded from this summary tends to either have an annual reporting schedule which means it doesn't yet extend beyond March 2020, or data collection and reporting was suspended during the pandemic (this includes much of the school attendance and exclusion data).

The data included gives an overview of the impact of the pandemic on some of the factors thought to influence whether people become victims or perpetrators of serious violence. Additional factors may emerge in future years as the impact of the pandemic becomes better understood and new data may be required to measure the prevalence of these impacts.

Deprivation and Financial Instability

Unemployment and Furloughing

Between August 2019 and August 2020, the number of people claiming unemployment benefits rose by 95% from one of the lowest proportions on record, to a rate of 6.3%, higher than the peak of the last recession. Most of this increase occurred between February and May 2020, during the first national lockdown. In addition to the 46,256 people claiming unemployment benefits, at the end of August 2020 an additional 45,200 people were fully or partially furloughed from their job.

The increase in unemployment disproportionately affected the most deprived parts of the County with nearly 50% of the increase occurring in areas which were already classed as in the most deprived 30% of England.

The combination of furloughing and unemployment mean that even if the economy recovers through 2021, the labour market is likely to be very competitive with large numbers of people looking for work or looking to increase their hours. The recovery from the last recession suggests that recently unemployed people will be the first to find work as the economy recovers and that already disadvantaged and vulnerable groups will move further away from finding employment. This is likely to affect the most deprived parts of the City and County and the groups of people already at increased risk of being impacted by serious violence.

Opportunities and Inclusion

NEET

Official NEET rates look at the average number of 16 to 17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training between December and February of the following year. Indicative figures for October 2020 show 1.5% of 16 and 17 year olds in Nottinghamshire and 4.4% in Nottingham City were classed as NEET, which were slightly lower than the December 2019 to February 2020 averages of 1.9% and 4.6% respectively.

A non-COVID-related issue in reporting registrations at a Nottingham college means that 6.1% of 16 to 17 year olds in Nottingham City had an 'unknown' NEET status in October, while the proportion 'unknown in Nottinghamshire fell to 1.1%. Overall the pandemic does

not seem to have had a significant impact on the NEET status of young people in the area. However, the disruption to learning and exams it has caused, as well as the uncertainty in the labour market may mean that the pandemic causes further problems for these young people in the future.

Parenting and family experience

Missing children

The official figures for missing children episodes refer to the 2019/20 financial year. Figures for Nottinghamshire show a lower number of both missing episodes and individual children compared to the previous year and the average of the previous three years. There was a sharp fall in missing episodes in March 2020 as the first national lockdown was implemented, although numbers were also generally lower than average prior to the pandemic beginning.

Indicative figures from April to September 2020 showed that overall, the number of missing episodes amongst children in Nottinghamshire County is 21.4% lower than in the period from April to September 2019. Missing episodes fell by nearly a half in April 2020 compared to the previous year and, despite month-on-month increases, remained lower than previous years throughout the lockdown. In August and September 2020, numbers of missing episodes were broadly in line with the average in earlier years, as restrictions on movements were lifted.

Less detail was available in the figures for Nottingham City but the pattern was broadly similar. There was a fall of 19.7% in the number of missing children episodes between 2018/19 and 2019/20 and indicative figures for the period from April to November suggest the pandemic has caused a further fall in the number of missing episodes.

Care should be taken in assessing this change as it may demonstrate the reduced opportunities for children to go missing during lockdown rather than a reduction in the underlying issues affecting missing children.

Multiple Risk factors

Troubled/ Priority Families.

By December 2020, 16,166 families had engaged with the Troubled or Priority Families schemes across the NNVRU area, with more than half achieving progress towards their identified issues or entering employment. Both the City and County were set targets for the numbers of families achieving positive outcomes between April 2020 and March 2021. By December 2020, Nottinghamshire County had achieved 77.9% of its March 2021 target and Nottingham City had achieved 72.0% of its target. These targets were set before the pandemic began and have been achieved in spite of the limitations on movement which have been in place for much of the year.

Hate Crime

The number of hate-related occurrences in the NNVRU area in 2020 was 1.5% lower than reported in the 2020 SNA (occurrences between April 2018 and March 2019), although the

percentage of incidents classed as hate-related crimes increased by 3.4%. Figure 2 shows that there was a geographical variation to these figures, with Nottingham City seeing lower numbers of hate occurrences and crimes, but numbers increasing in Nottinghamshire County.

Figure 2 Hate occurrences, crimes and non-crimes, NNVRU area, 2018/19 and 2020.

Source: Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information
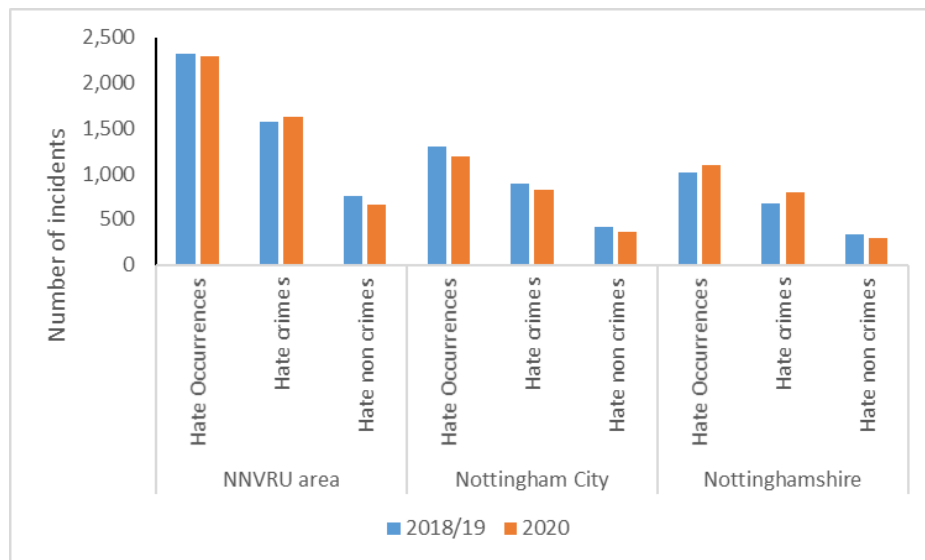
Race continues to account for the largest proportion of hate occurrences and crimes in the NNVRU area (72.6% and 76.4% respectively), followed by sexual orientation (13.4% and 11.9%). Hate occurrences and crimes related to sexual orientation increased in both the City and County in 2020 compared to the 2020 SNA. The County also saw increases in hate related incidents relating to race and transgender people. The fall in race related hate incidents in Nottingham City was largely responsible for the overall fall in hate related occurrences in the City. Incidents related to disability, religion, misogyny and alternative subcultures all saw lower numbers of occurrences in both the City and County.

Health

Ambulance callouts for violent events

Data Extraction

Records of ambulance callouts for violent events were extracted from the East Midlands Ambulance Service dataset held in the Public Health England data lake.

Inclusion criteria include all ambulance callouts with:

1. A call date between 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2020
2. A geographical location within Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County boundaries
3. A despatch code beginning with '04' or '27' as listed in **Appendix 1**

Ambulance attendance for incidents relating to self-harm were identified as records with a despatch code ending in 'X' or 'Y' and have been excluded from the analysis in line with the scope of the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA).

Analysis

Microsoft Excel was used to analyse the data. Data was aggregated by local authority, sex and 5- and 10-year age bands and type of violence

For the purpose of this report reasons for ambulance callouts relating to violent incidents have been grouped into six broad categories based on the first two digits of the despatch code and the last character of the despatch code as shown in the table 1 below.

Table 1 Reasons for ambulance callouts relating to violence

Callouts Reasons	First 2 digits of despatch code	Last Character of despatch code
Assault	04	A
Sexual Assault	04	S
Stab	27	S
Gun shot	27	G
Stun gun	27	T
Penetrating trauma	27	I, P

Findings

East Midlands Ambulance Service provides a range of services within the East Midlands region including emergency and urgent care, patient transport, call handling and clinical assessment services. Within the Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City VRU area (NNVRU), EMAS provides emergency and urgent care services as well as call handling and clinical assessment services for residents.

Between 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2020, there were a total of 5096 ambulance callouts relating to violent events within NNVRU area. This accounts for approximately 1% of all ambulance callouts within this geographical area. Table 2 below shows that of the 5,096 callouts, 51.8% were within the County boundaries and 48.3% in the City. In Nottinghamshire County, Mansfield had the highest proportion of callouts (11.4%) and Rushcliffe lowest (3.4%).

Table 2 Ambulance callouts by local authority, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, Jan 2018 -Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)

Local Authority	Number	Percent
Mansfield	582	11.4%
Ashfield	478	9.4%
Bassetlaw	435	8.5%
Newark and Sherwood	366	7.2%
Gedling	311	6.1%
Broxtowe	290	5.7%
Rushcliffe	175	3.4%
Nottinghamshire County	2,637	51.7%
Nottingham City	2,459	48.3%
Total	5,096	100.0%

Demographics

Of the 5,096 callouts for violence-related incidents, 4.3% (221) had gender recorded as 'Unknown' and 95.7% (4875) had gender recorded as either male or female. Of these 4,875 records, 72.6% (3,541) were males and 27.4% (1,334) females.

As illustrated in Figure 3 below, the proportion of callouts in every age group is consistently higher in males compared to females except above 75 years, where proportions are slightly higher in females. Males aged 15 to 39 years account for over 47.5% of all callouts in compared to 16.4% in females within the same age range. The highest proportion of callouts is recorded in males aged between 20-24 years and the percentage decreasing steadily thereafter, particularly for males.

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Figure 3 Age - gender distribution, Jan 2018 – Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)

Source:EMAS
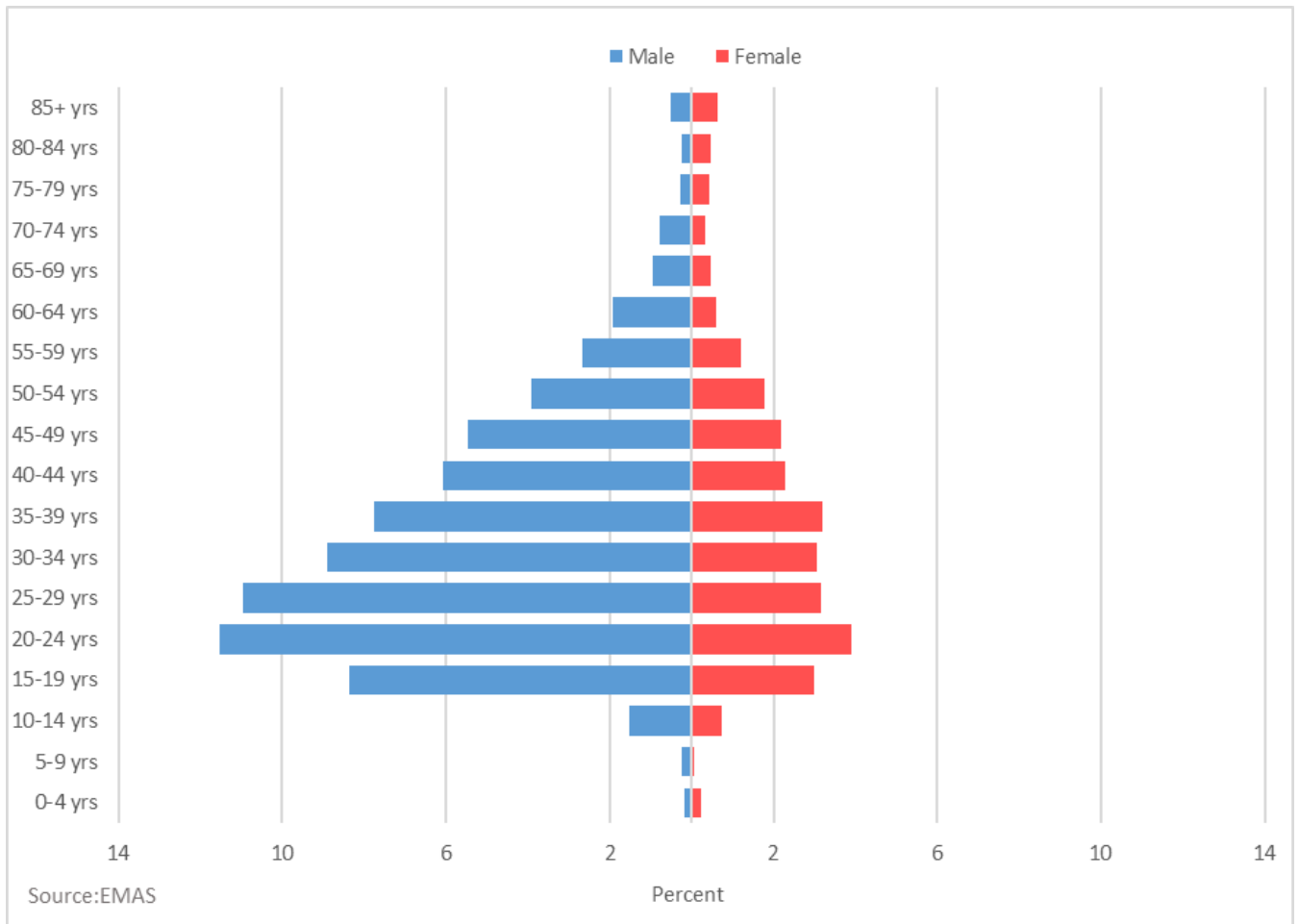
Across both City and County, a similar age-gender breakdown is seen with callouts being over three times higher in males than females. Proportions are also consistently higher in males compared to females in all age groups and males aged 20-39 years account for a high proportion of callouts (43.2% and 35.6% for City and County respectively) as shown in Figure 4 below.
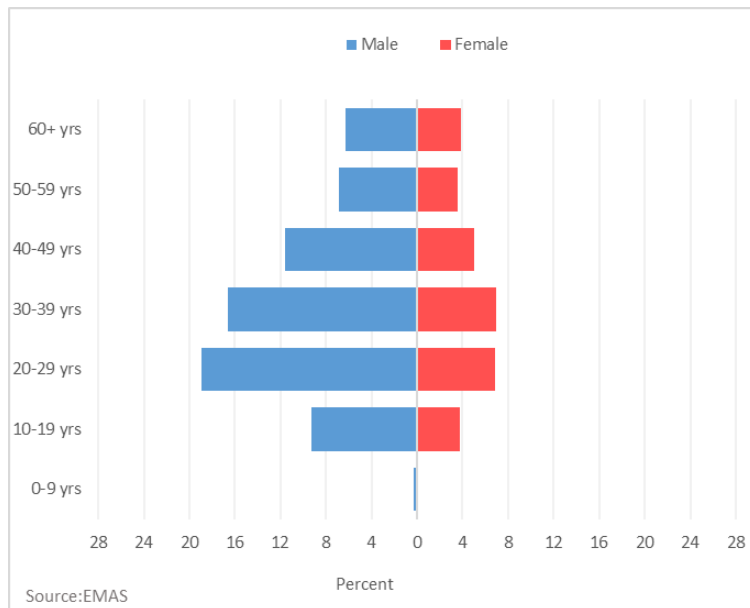
Figure 4 Age distribution by gender, Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City, Jan 2018 to Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)

Nottingham City

Nottinghamshire County

Likewise, across the districts within the County, proportions of ambulance callouts for violence-related incidents are generally higher in males than females. The highest proportions are recorded in males aged 20-29 years in all districts except Ashfield and Gedling, where the highest proportion are in the 30-39 age group and in both the 20-29 and 30-39 age groups respectively. Apart from Gedling and Rushcliffe, proportions are consistently higher in males than in females in all age groups. In Gedling, proportions in the 50-59 age group are similar in both males and females whilst in Rushcliffe, proportions in the 10-19 age group are similar but higher in females aged between 50-59 years.
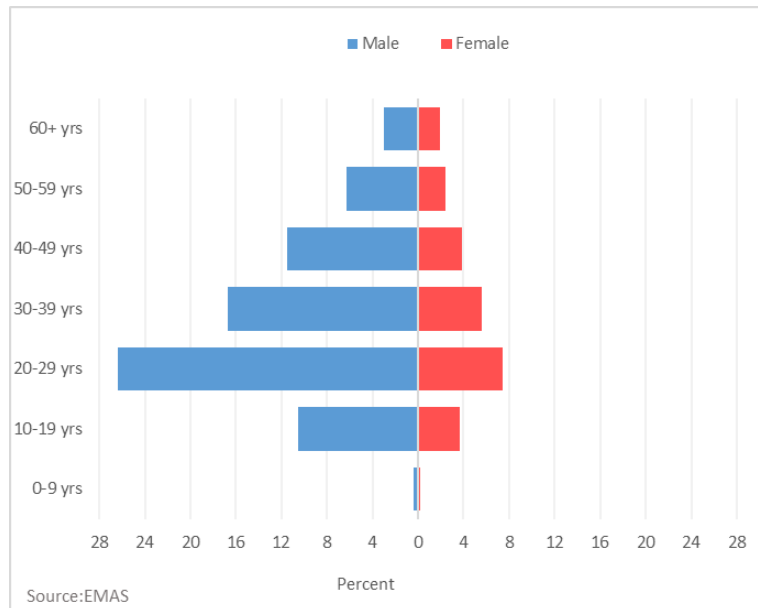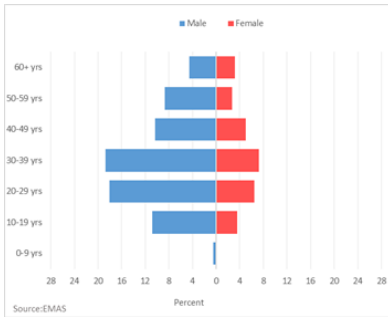
Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Needs Assessment Update 2021
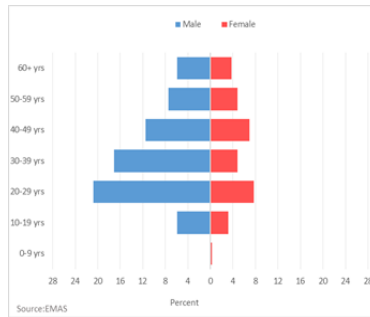
Figure 5 Age distribution by gender, district local authorities, Jan 2018 to Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)

Ashfield

Bassetlaw

Broxtowe
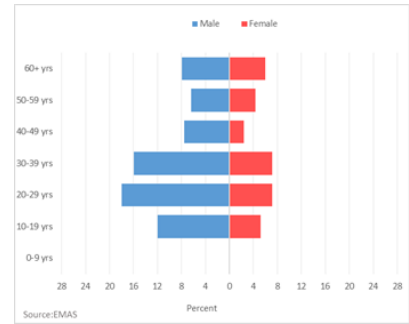
Gedling
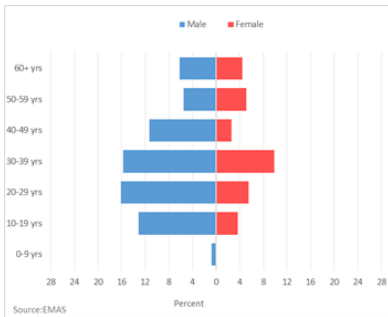
Mansfield
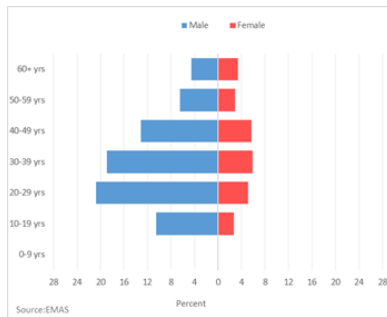
Newark and Sherwood

Rushcliffe

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Needs Assessment Update 2021
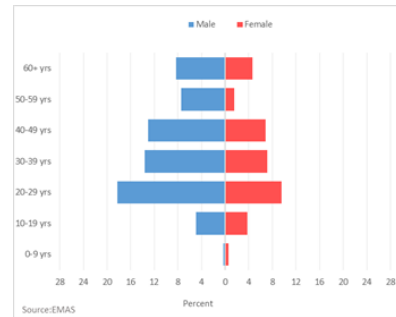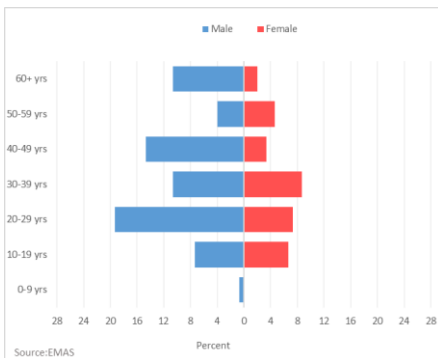
Deprivation

Analysis of all callouts for violence-related incidents over the 33-month period show that majority of calls are from the most deprived quintile of the NNVRU area, an 8-fold difference between the most deprived and least deprived quintiles as show in figure 6 below.

Figure 6 Ambulance callouts for violence within the NNVRU area by deprivation quintiles

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)
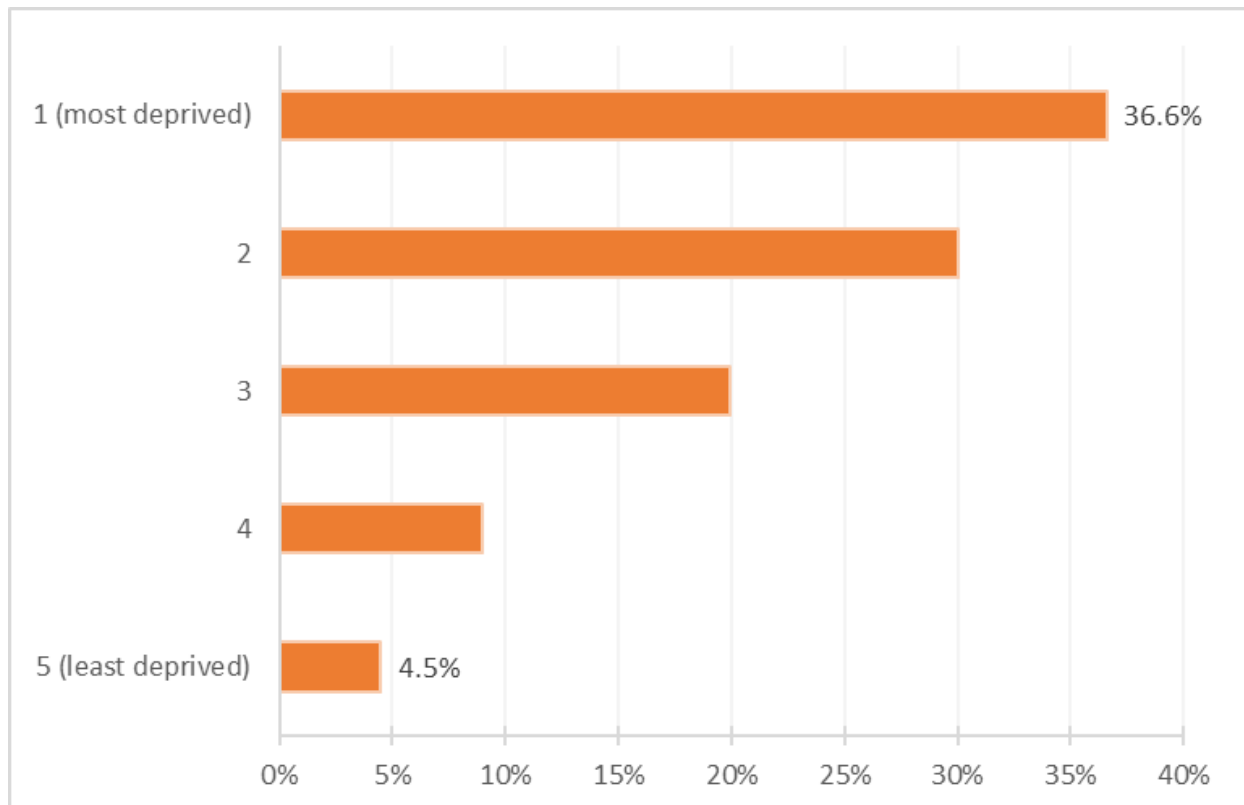
Apart from Nottingham, this pattern is mirrored across all the districts in Nottinghamshire County with highest proportion of calls from most deprived quintiles. The difference between the most and least deprived quintiles ranges from a 4-fold difference in Rushcliffe to an 18-fold difference in Mansfield. Nottingham on the other hand, has the highest proportion of calls from the 3rd and 4th quintiles (23.1% and 22.9% respectively). A possible explanation is that most of the LSOAs within the 3rd and 4th quintile fall within the City centre boundary, which has a high concentration of commercial establishments and social activities.

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Temporal Pattern

Time of Day

Figure 7 below shows the percentage of ambulance callouts for incidents relating to violence by hour for the 33-month period. The highest proportion of callouts occurred between 10pm and 12 midnight accounting for 23% of all violence-related callouts. After midnight, a steady decrease in callouts is observed, with the lowest proportion from 6-11 am and callouts gradually increasing thereafter.

Figure 7 Ambulance callouts for violent incidents by hour, Jan 2018 -Sept 2020.

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)

Source: EMAS
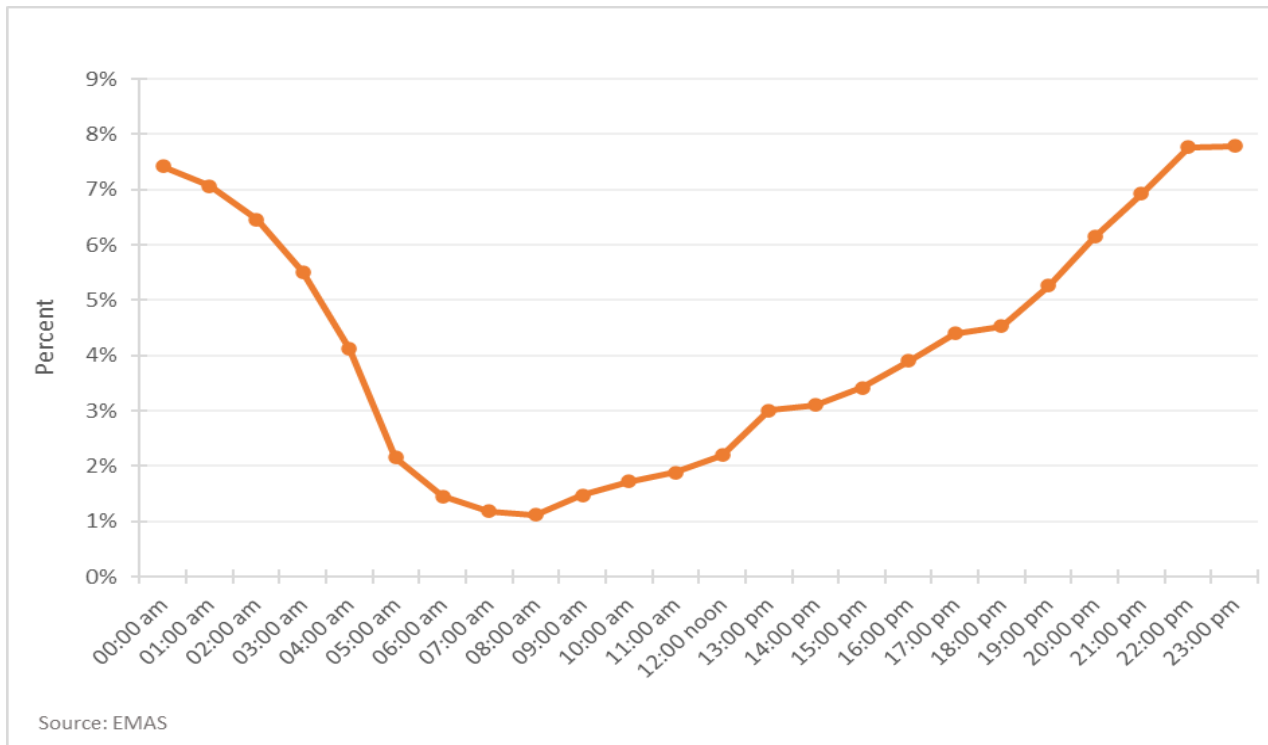
Day of week

Ambulance callouts for violent incidents were generally higher over the weekend, with 43% of callouts happening on a Saturday and Sunday compared to the weekdays. The lowest proportion of callouts was received on Wednesdays, after which callouts start to increase before peaking on Saturday as illustrated in figure 8 below.

Figure 8 Ambulance callouts for injuries relating to violence by day of week, Jan 2018 -Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Services (EMAS)

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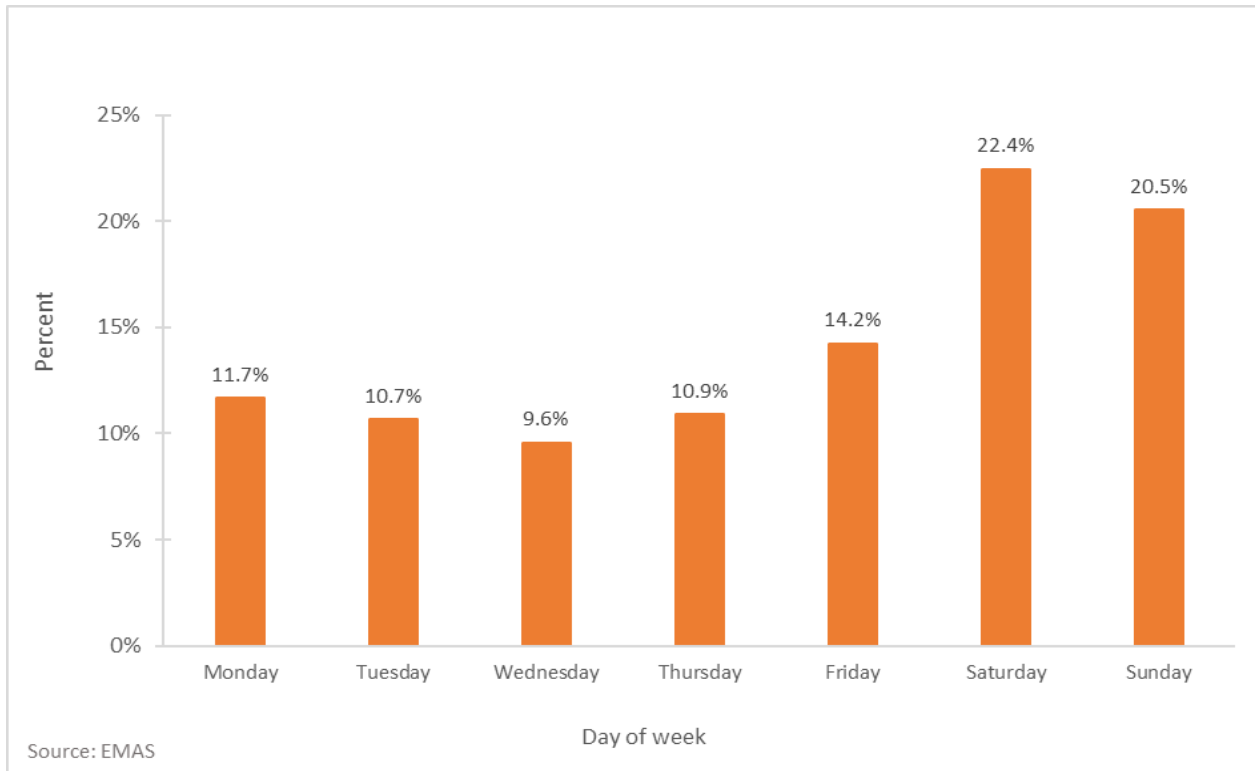
Monthly variation

Over the 33-month period, a seasonal variation in number of ambulance callouts can be drawn out, albeit not very distinctly (Figure 9). Callouts for violence-related incidents are highest in the summer months (June to August) and lowest in winter months (December to March). Of the winter months, December had the highest number of callouts recorded with numbers decreasing thereafter. The high numbers seen in December are likely due to Christmas and end of year festivities occurring during the month. Callouts for violent incidents start to increase in spring and peak in the summer. Of the summer months, July had the highest number of callouts except in summer 2020, where August had the highest number of callouts.

The lowest number of callouts for violence-related incidences was recorded in April 2020. This could be due to the nationwide restrictions implemented on 26th March to curb the transmission of COVID-19 within communities. In subsequent weeks and months, numbers of callouts have risen to levels comparable with previous months.

Figure 9 Ambulance callouts for violent incidents by month, Jan 2018 -Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Services (EMAS)
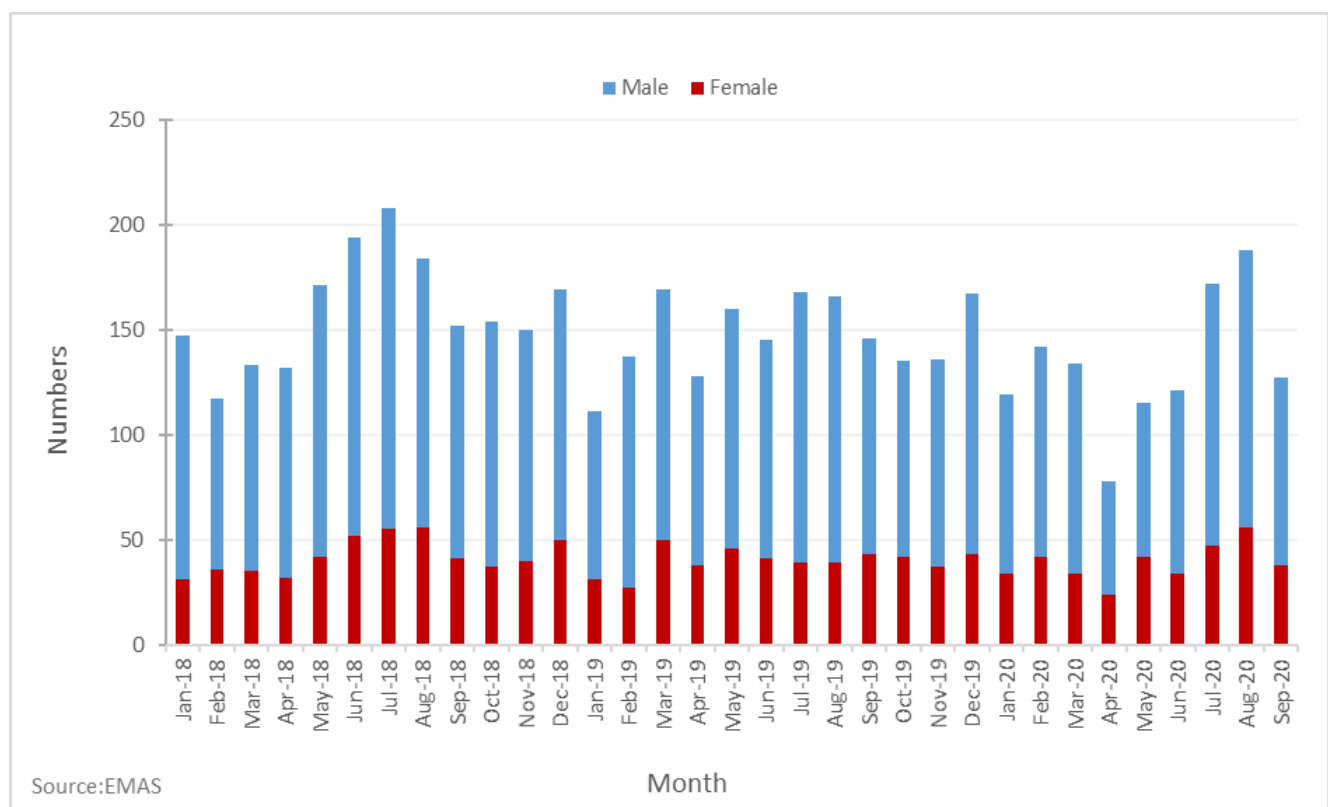
Figure 10 below shows the temporal pattern for ambulance callouts for violent incidents within the NNVRU area for both males and females. From Monday through to Thursday, numbers are fairly consistent for both males and females, with low number of callouts between 5am and 8am each day. Callouts then start to rise gradually as the day progresses, peaking between late evening and midnight/early hours of the morning. From about 1pm on Fridays, the number of callouts for violent incidents start increasing for both

males and females, reaching a peak between 11pm to 1am and decrease afterwards. A similar pattern is also observed on Saturdays and Sundays.

The average number of callouts for violence-related incidents per hour between Monday to Thursday is 2 times higher in males (15 callouts per hour for males compared to 7 callouts per hour for females). Likewise, between Friday and Sunday, the average number of callouts for females was approximately 10 callouts per hour and for males, 29 callouts (almost 3 times higher).

Figure 10 Ambulance callouts for violent incidents by day of week and time, Jan 2018- Sept 2020
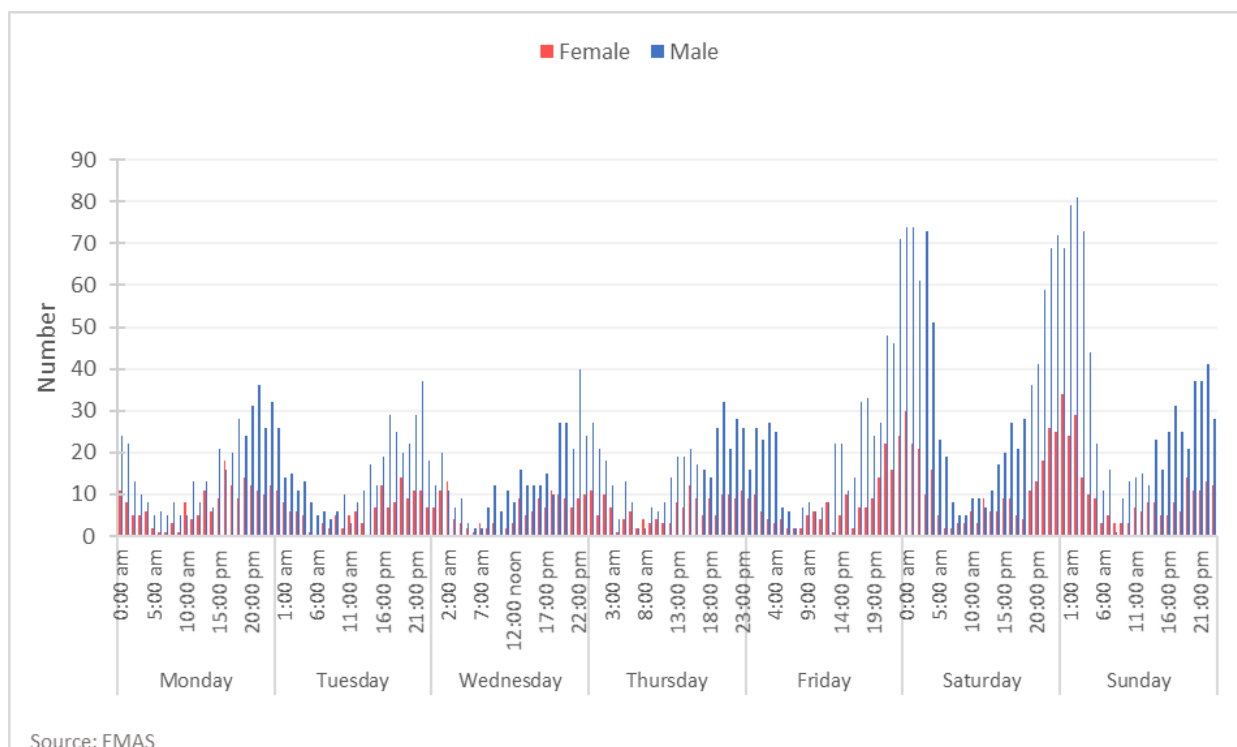
Source: East Midlands Ambulance Services (EMAS)

Location of pickup

Figure 11 below shows the number of ambulance attendances relating to violence mapped to Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Darker shadings on the map represent higher ambulance attendances and are seen mainly in LSOAs within Nottingham city centre and surrounding areas. Pockets of darker shadings are also seen in Mansfield. Four of six LSOAs with the highest number of ambulance attendance were in Nottingham City and the others within Mansfield.

Within Nottingham City, 35.4% (871 of 2,459) of ambulance attendance were in LSOAs within the City Centre and 38.1% (222 of 582) of ambulance attendance in Mansfield were in LSOAs within Mansfield town centre and Broomhill.

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Figure 11 Number of ambulance attendances by LSOA, Jan 2018- Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Emergency Service (EMAS)
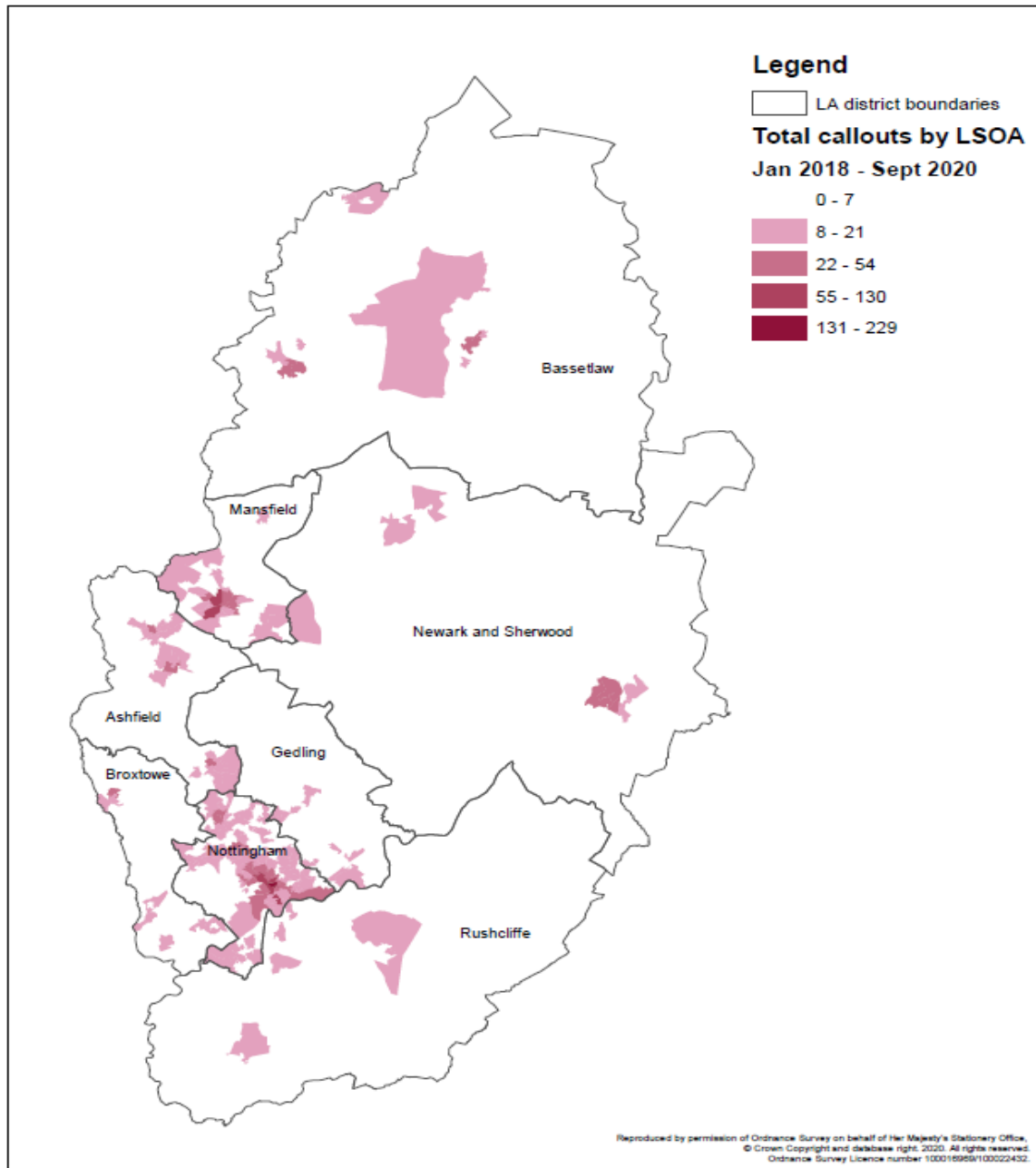
Ambulance Callout Reasons

Using a combination of the first two digits and the last character of the despatch code, ambulance callout reasons have been grouped into six broad categories which include assault, stab, penetrating trauma, sexual assault, gunshot and stun gun injuries.

Of 5,096 ambulance callouts for violent incidents, 85.5% were related to assault, 10.9% stab, 1.9% penetrating trauma and less than 2% for sexual assault, gunshot and stun gun injuries as shown in table 3 below. This is similar across both City and County, with over 80% of callouts relating to assaults.

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Table 3 Ambulance callouts by Reason, Jan 2018 – Sept 2020

Table 4 Ambulance Callouts by reason, Jan 2018- Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Services (EMAS)

Callout Reasons	Number	Percent
Assault	4,356	85.5%
Stab	556	10.9%
Penetrating Trauma	96	1.9%
Sexual Assault	48	0.9%
Gunshot	33	0.6%
Stun gun	7	0.1%
Total	5,096	100.0%

Excluding 221 (4.3%) callout records without a recorded gender, Figure 12 below shows that for both males and females, assault was the main reason an ambulance was despatched to a location. Amongst males, this accounts for over 60% of callouts. Stabbing was the second most common reason particularly in males.

Figure 12 Ambulance callouts by type of violence, Jan 2018-Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Services (EMAS)

	Assault	Stab	Penetrating Trauma	Sexual Assault	Gunshot	Stun gun
■ Male	61.1%	9.4%	1.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%
■ Female	24.5%	1.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%

Source:EMAS
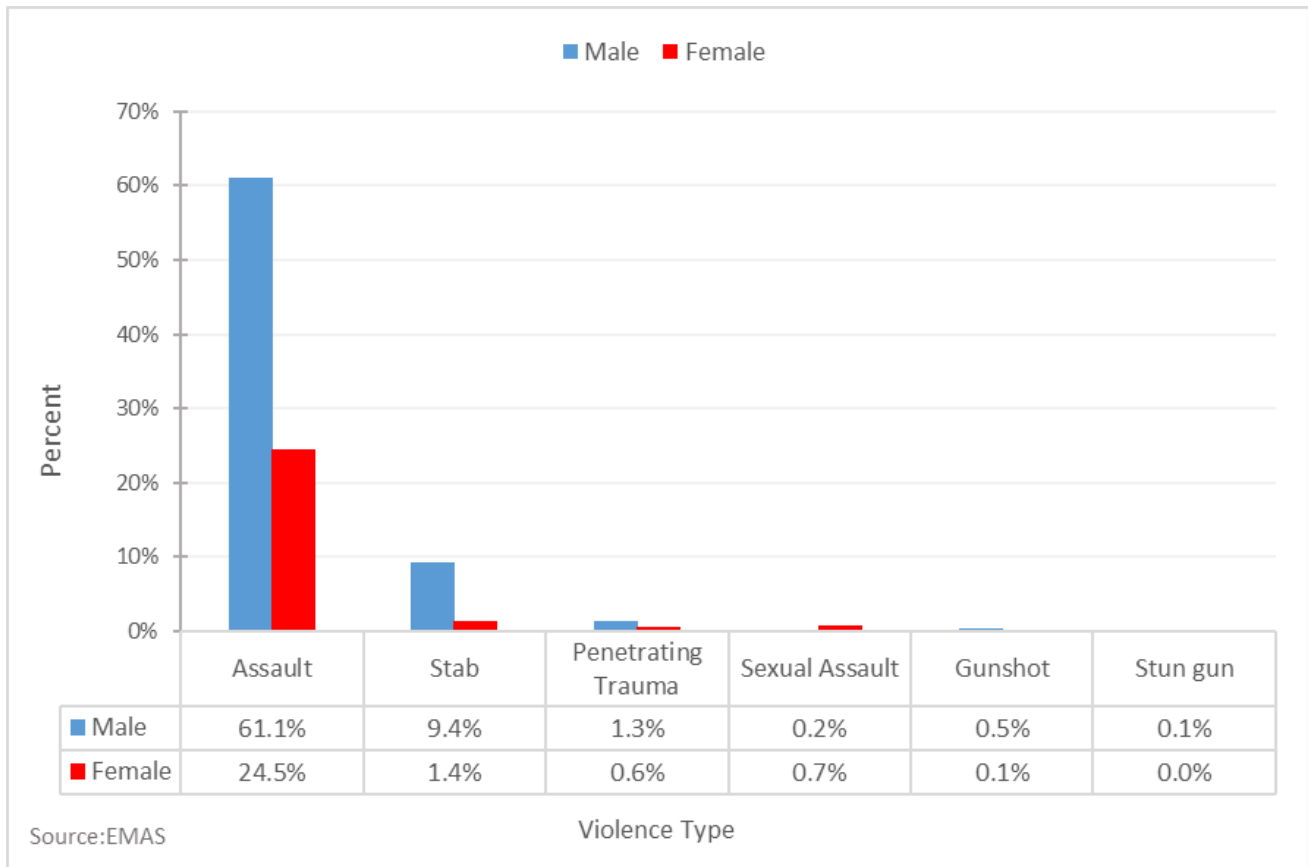
Analysis of callout records with an assigned age group (4,479 of 5,096), over 50% of callouts were for persons aged between 15 and 34 years with the highest proportion (15.4%) in the 20-24 years. The number of callouts for violent incidents decreases with the age groups. Assault was the main reason for a callout in all age groups as shown in figure 13 below. Amongst persons age 75 and over, callouts for violent incidents is slightly higher in the 85+ age group.

Figure 13 Ambulance callouts by type of violence and age group, Jan 2018-Sept 2020

Source: East Midlands Ambulance Services (EMAS)
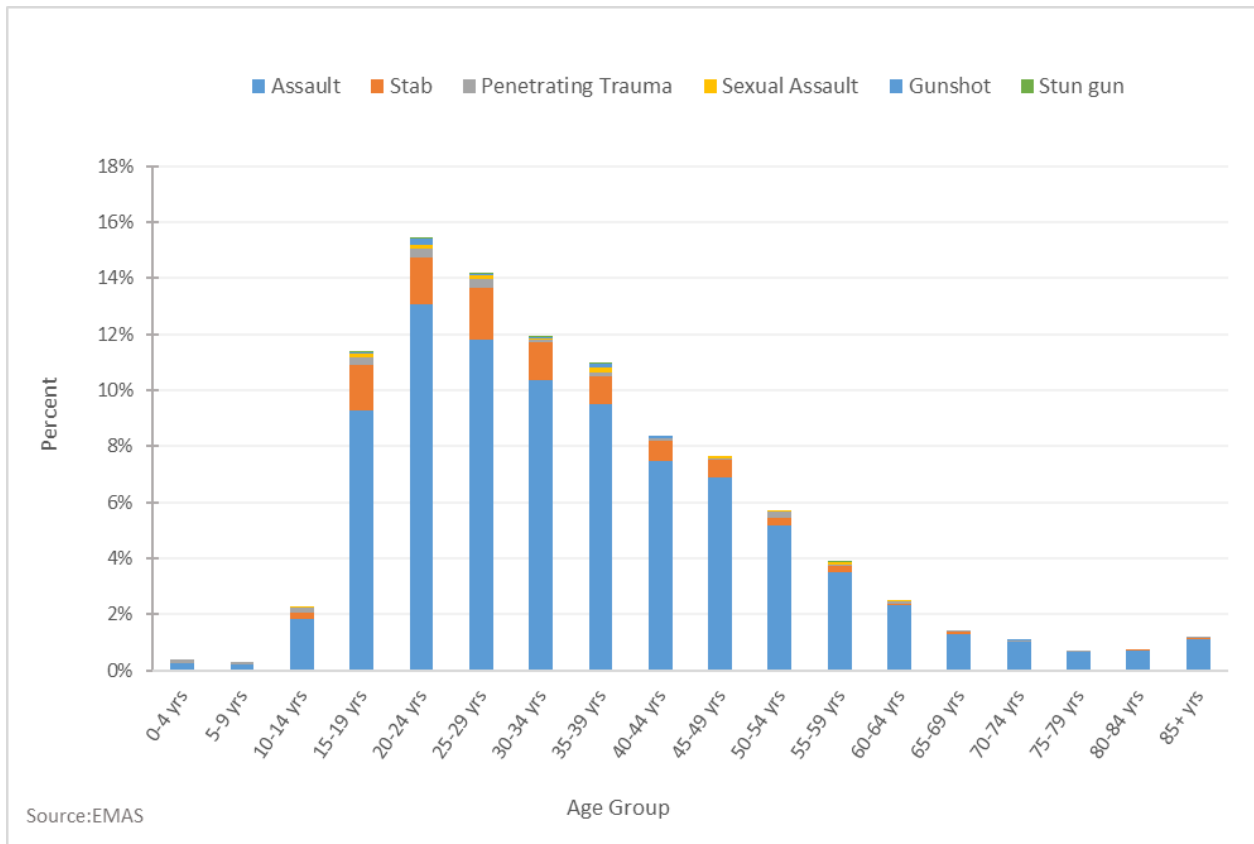
Outcome of ambulance attendance

There are three possible outcomes following a callout for an ambulance:

1. 'Hear and Treat' which involves a full assessment of the patient's condition over the phone and clinical advice offered including signposting to services and places where alternate care can be sought, including GPs, pharmacy or community-based care services.
2. 'See and Treat' – Ambulance crew member on arrival on scene of incident, assesses patient's condition with treatment/clinical advice given to patient on-scene
3. 'See, Treat and Convey' – On arrival at the scene of the incident, and following an initial assessment of the patient's injuries, ambulance crew provides the initial treatment and conveys the patient to the nearest emergency department.

Of the 5,096 callouts for incidents relating to violence within the NNVRU area, 27.7%, were assessed and given clinical advice over the phone; 28.2% were assessed and treated on the scene by the ambulance crew and 44.1% were conveyed to hospital for further assessment and treatment. Overall, 55.9% of callouts for violent incidents did not require conveyance to hospital.

Hospital Admissions

Figures on hospital admissions as the result of assault are taken from the Hospital Episode Statistics. The latest data for Nottinghamshire is based on a three-year average period from April 2017 to March 2020.

There were 1,485 hospital admissions for assault in this period, nearly identical to the 1,483 admissions in the period from April 2016 to March 2019 which was analysed in the 2020 SNA. The demographic, temporal and geographic variations seen in the refreshed data is similar to that which was found in the 2020 SNA, perhaps unsurprisingly considering the considerable overlap in the data periods.

The annual release of the data, and the need to use a three-year figure due to the relatively small number of occurrences in a given year, means that this data cannot be used to draw any conclusions as to the impact of the pandemic on hospital admissions. Given the focus of the refresh document on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, analysis of the data is not included here. The full analysis of the refreshed data can be found in the Part II Data Refresh.

Emergency Department Attendances

The 2020 SNA used figures from Hospital Episode Statistics on the number of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire residents attending emergency departments (EDs) who were coded as victims of assault in the patient group field. Weaknesses in the coding of the data were outlined and the figures were assessed as a likely underestimate of assault victims attending the EDs.

The data was used in the 2020 SNA to create a profile of the known victims of assaults attending EDs and this remains valid with the original caveats. However, the weaknesses in the coding of the data mean it is not possible to use this data to look at change over time. Small variations in the quality of coding could have a significant impact on the figures, and it isn't possible to separate variations in violence levels from variations in coding practice.

Comparison of the attendances data with other, more robust, sources highlights these issues. Both the police data covering serious violence offences and the hospital admissions data for assault victims shows an increase in offences and victims between the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years, before a decline in 2019/20. In contrast, the ED attendances data shows large falls in the number of assault victims in each year.

The ED attendances data is in the process of being replaced by a new Emergency Care Dataset (ECDS) which is intended to address some of these issues. Initial ECDS data for 2019/20 shows a number of missing fields and is still not considered robust enough to act as a baseline. Data for 2020/21 is similarly unlikely to be suitable as a baseline as it will be impacted by the effects of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the development of the ECDS and look to add the data into future iterations of the SNA.

Mortality

Over five pooled financial years (1 April 2014 to 31 March 2020), there was a total of 78 deaths from assaults recorded within Nottinghamshire area, equating to 1.4 deaths per

100,000 population. Of these, 36 deaths occurred within Nottingham City with a directly age-standardised rate (DSR) (Office of National Statistics, 2020) of 2.3 deaths per 100,000 population and 42 deaths in Nottinghamshire County with a DSR rate of 1.0 deaths per 100,000 population.

Of 78 deaths, 62.3% were males, 38.3% from the most deprived quintile within Nottinghamshire and 75.7% aged between 20-59yrs with the highest proportion (24.6%) in the 20-29yrs age group. Within the City, majority (77.8%) were males, 25.0% aged between 20-29yrs and 44.4% from the 1st and 2nd most deprived quintiles of the City. Nottinghamshire County showed a similar pattern for gender and deprivation but differs in age group with over 70% aged above 40yrs. National figures for deaths from assault are currently unavailable for comparison.

Table 5 Number of deaths from violence, 2007/8 – 2019/20.

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Local Authority	Number of Deaths
Nottingham	79
Nottinghamshire County	103
Mansfield	25
Ashfield	18
Newark and Sherwood	18
Bassetlaw	16
Gedling	12
Broxtowe	9
Rushcliffe	5
Grand Total	182

Method

i.   Data Extraction

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Civil Registration dataset was used. Deaths from assault registered between 1st Apr 14 and 31st March 2019 were extracted for all residents of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. Deaths from assault were identified using ICD 10 codes X85-Y09, U509 as specified in ONS User guide to mortality statistics (ONS, 2019).

ii.   Analysis

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Microsoft Excel was used to analyse the data, focusing on five pooled financial years (2014/15 to 2018/19) due to small numbers. Data was aggregated by local authority, sex and 10yr age bands based on the local authority of residence, gender and age at date of death. Directly age-standardised rates (DSR) were calculated using mid-year estimates (2014-2018) and the 2013 European standard population. Confidence limits for directly standardised rates were calculated using Byar's methodology as detailed in the APHO Technical briefing 3: Commonly used public health statistics and their confidence interval (Eayres, 2010). Descriptive analysis was carried out for Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire County and for Nottinghamshire as a whole.

Safeguarding

Children in need of protection

The VRU approach involves partners working in a trauma-informed way to understand and support individuals to overcome the effects of childhood trauma. Too many children live their lives in the context of violence that they observe or that affects their family or themselves. Such violence may be physical or sexual, but may also be emotional abuse or neglect. Children in this situation not only experience pain and suffering and associated trauma, but also then face additional challenges in developing their own understanding of healthy relationships and behaviours. This can increase the likelihood of both victimisation and offending in later life.

A Child Protection Plan will only be instigated when professionals have grounds to believe that the child "is likely to suffer maltreatment or the impairment of health and development as a result of neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse".

Table 6 Child protection plans Nottingham and Nottinghamshire 2012/13 to 2018/19 (7 year period) indicating category of abuse at initial assessment.

Source: Dept. for Education

Type of Abuse	Nottingham	Nottinghamshire	Combined
Emotional	3,239	2,240	5,479
Multiple	365	3,410	3,775
Neglect	3,163	5,195	8,358
Physical Abuse	1,234	654	1,888
Sexual Abuse	350	519	869
TOTAL	8,351	12,018	20,369

Whilst some children will have been subject to multiple plans over this period, the data indicates an ongoing pattern of harm with longer-term implications. It also indicates both short- and long-term opportunities to intervene and prevent further harm. This needs to be put into the context outlined in the 2020 Strategic Needs Assessment, including noting that these are not predictive factors and nor are they quick fixes. The inclusion of these figures in the SNA serves to highlight another rationale for mainstreaming an approach that is both trauma-informed and which seeks to understand and mitigate adverse childhood experience.

Changes over time in the volume of cases are difficult to track because they can be influenced by national events that impact reporting levels and recording practice can vary over time and between authorities; for instance, the County reports a higher proportion of multiple factor abuse that may mean they have more cases of complex abuse or different recording rules. The total figures for City and County in 2018/19 are 1,157 and 1,776 respectively. Further data including district level figures can be found in Part II.

Exploitation and Violence: Modern Slavery and Child Criminal Exploitation

Whilst exploitation is intrinsically a form of violence, with the coercion and threat of violence having an impact on both physical and mental health, in this section the focus is on the linkage between exploitation and physical harm.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 was a landmark piece of legislation that focused the attention of government, police and other agencies on the problem of exploitation. Nottinghamshire Police has had a dedicated modern slavery for a number of years which is now aligned with its response to County Lines. Nottingham City Council established a dedicated slavery team in 2018, but from its initial role of supporting survivors exiting the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) it now has a broader role as the Slavery and Exploitation Team, including taking referrals of possible exploitation from both City and County. Whilst an overlap with exploitation and violence might be expected, the scale of this has not been captured locally and information systems are not currently built to capture this information. To support this SNA, two small inquiries attempted to establish the extent of the overlap between exploitation and violence for children and for adults.

The VRU scope explicitly refers to the violence associated with County Lines. This section does not provide a profile of County Lines but looks at the evidence of County Lines as a causal factor of violence. County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation that seeks to illegally exploit people for profit and is part of a range of criminal behaviours that exploit both children and adults in criminal activities, such as sexual exploitation and the drug trade, as well as forced labour in otherwise legal activities such as food production. A more comprehensive overview of these issues locally can be found in the Modern Slavery Problem Profile produced by University of Nottingham Rights Lab for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Modern Slavery Partnership.

Slavery and Exploitation of Adults

The Slavery and Exploitation Team audited the 113 referrals to the Team over the period 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020. Ethnicity was not recorded systematically although the Team could identify referrals involving foreign nationals from the Far East and Eastern Europe, the majority were felt to be UK nationals, usually from Nottingham. Where gender was recorded, 49 were female and 52 male.

Referrals cover a wide range of exploitation and have included domestic servitude, 'cuckooing' (taking over your house to use for drug-dealing), unpaid labour, and milking of benefits. Many cases include a number of different forms of exploitation as the perpetrators use their victim as an asset to extract value from.

Each referral was examined for evidence of violence. The Team added occurrences of violence that were reported post-referral. Both of these are dependent on the referred person disclosing incidents (and on agencies requesting and/or recording such disclosures). Incidents included in the referral may not have been directly inflicted by the exploiter but have arisen in the context of the exploitation. Three-quarters of referrals had experienced violence of some form and 40% had experienced either physical or sexual violence.

Figure 14 Types of violence experienced (including victims experiencing more than one type of violence 168 incidents/113 victims)

Source: Slavery & Exploitation Team, Nottingham City Council (Referrals Audit)
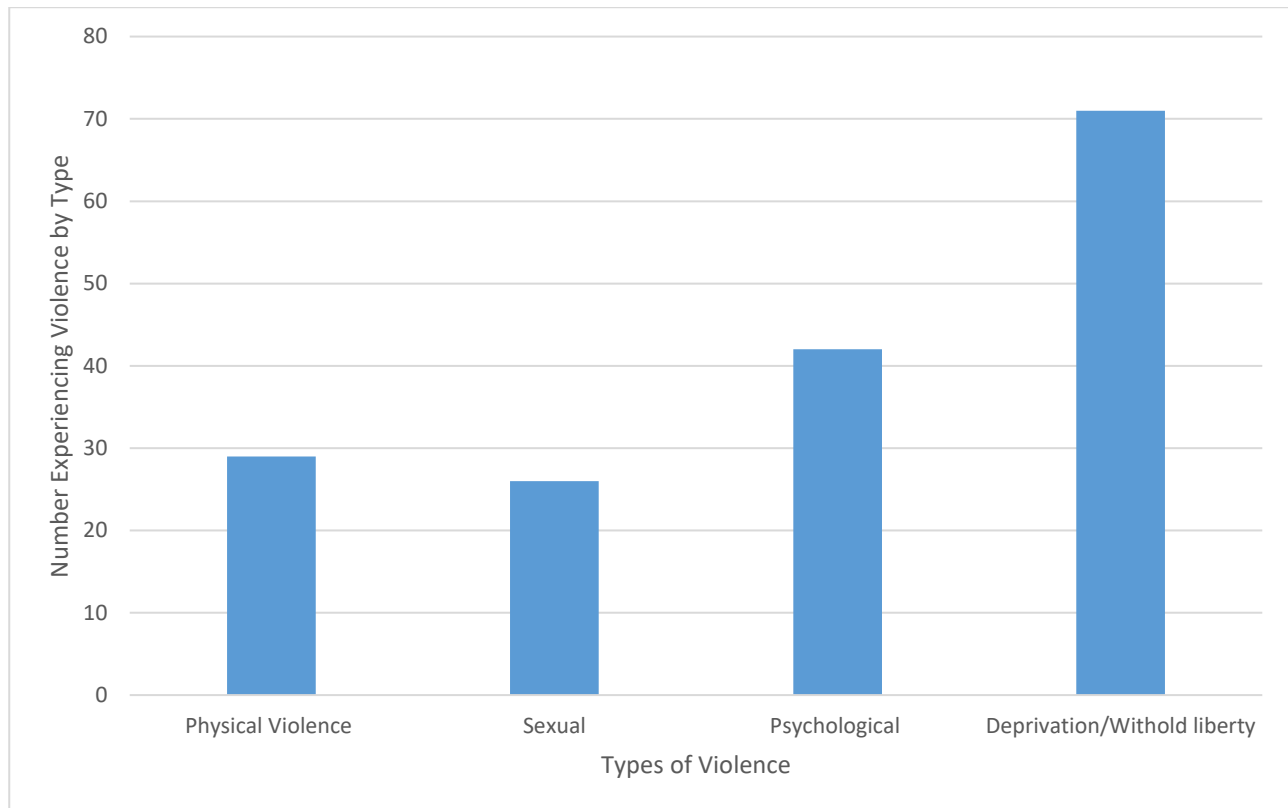
There were nine individuals of the 113 who experienced physical, sexual and psychological violence. The data also suggests a strong overlap between physical and sexual violence with one third of those experiencing physical violence also experiencing sexual violence and vice versa. Sexual violence was reported for 18 women and five men.

What is missing from the data is any figure for the number of incidents experienced by individuals; all that is captured is the nature of violence that was experienced. Given that exploitation referrals will always relate to a period of exploitation, sometimes months or years, it is likely that multiple incidents of violence have been experienced. A review of multi-agency work to protect an individual that was conducted by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Adults Board, for instance, found a number of emergency department attendances, including two instances of a broken jaw, that are now believed to have been a result of exploiter violence.

Using the following World Health Organization typology to describe the perpetrator/victim relationship:

- **Self-directed violence** refers to violence in which the perpetrator and the victim are the same individual and is subdivided into *self-abuse* and *suicide*.
- **Interpersonal violence** refers to violence between individuals, and is subdivided into *family and intimate partner violence* and *community violence*. The former category includes child maltreatment; intimate partner violence; and elder abuse, while the latter is broken down into *acquaintance* and *stranger* violence and includes youth violence; assault by strangers; violence related to property crimes; and violence in workplaces and other institutions.

- **Collective violence** refers to violence committed by larger groups of individuals and can be subdivided into social, political and economic violence.

This produced the following outcome:

Table 7 Violence type by victim-perpetrator relationship

Source: Slavery & Exploitation Team, Nottingham City Council (Referrals Audit)

Violence by Perpetrator Relationship	Number	%
Unknown	7	6%
None identified	21	19%
Interpersonal	56	50%
Collective Violence	24	21%
Combination	6	5%
Total	113	

Within the Combination figure above are four instances of self-harm, which is relevant in considering the traumatising impact of people's experience. It is possible that self-harm has higher levels of under-reporting than other types of violence.

The Slavery and Exploitation Team was only formally established to receive referrals from local agencies from April of last year, and it is anticipated that the volume of referrals will increase as the training and structures develop further in the County.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines

Where a child (any person under 18 years) is groomed or forced to participate in criminal activity that child is considered to have been exploited, even where the child believes they are a willing participant. This does not absolve them of responsibility for their actions but does place greater emphasis on tackling those that exploit them. Children in this situation can be involved in violence within this exploitation either as a victim or perpetrator, and such violence is rarely reported. For this SNA, there was an interest in establishing whether young people subject to CCE also faced a greater risk of violence in addition to that linked to their exploitation. There have been indications in other parts of the Country that young people were committing knife-point robberies to get money to pay off debts imposed by their exploiters, for instance for stolen drugs. These young people may have increased access to weapons and also be experiencing trauma and other problems arising from their involvement in CCE. As a test of this hypothesis, a comparison was conducted that looked at the caseload of the CCE Panels for both the City and the County and looked at whether they were involved with their respective Youth Justice Service for violent offences. There were a number of limitations to this study, including the study population being relatively small. Also missing from the YJS data was information about instances

where the child was a victim of violence. More detailed understanding of committing and being the victim of violence by this cohort would be of value as an opportunity to reduce serious harm up to and including homicide.

The analysis is comprised of two studies, representing City and County and future research might better focus on the geography of young people's lives rather than municipal boundaries. The City Centre is a focus point for large numbers of young people, from different neighbourhoods, moving between school and home or just congregating and may give the City a different dynamic.

The data for those currently on the City CCEP review list.

Figure 15 Nottingham City: CCEP Panel and YJS caseloads serious violence December 2020

Source Nottingham Youth Justice Service

In summary, 13 of the 110 individuals (12%) being supervised by the YJS were doing so for Serious Youth Violence and 36 were not supervised by the YJS.

Of those being supervised by the City YJS, those involved with the CCEP were twice as likely (18 %) to have Serious Youth Violence Offences as the rest of the YJS caseload (9%). Put another way, CCEP cohort is 8% of the YJS caseload but responsible for 16% of Serious Youth Violence.

The picture in the County is similar with the CCEP cohort comprising 12% of the YJS caseload but responsible for 28% of Serious Youth Violence.

Figure 16 Nottinghamshire County: CCEP Panel and YJS Caseloads Serious Violence December 2020.

Source: Nottinghamshire County YJS)

747 **YJS Caseload**

107

CCEP Caseload

YJS with Serious Violence

54

15

53
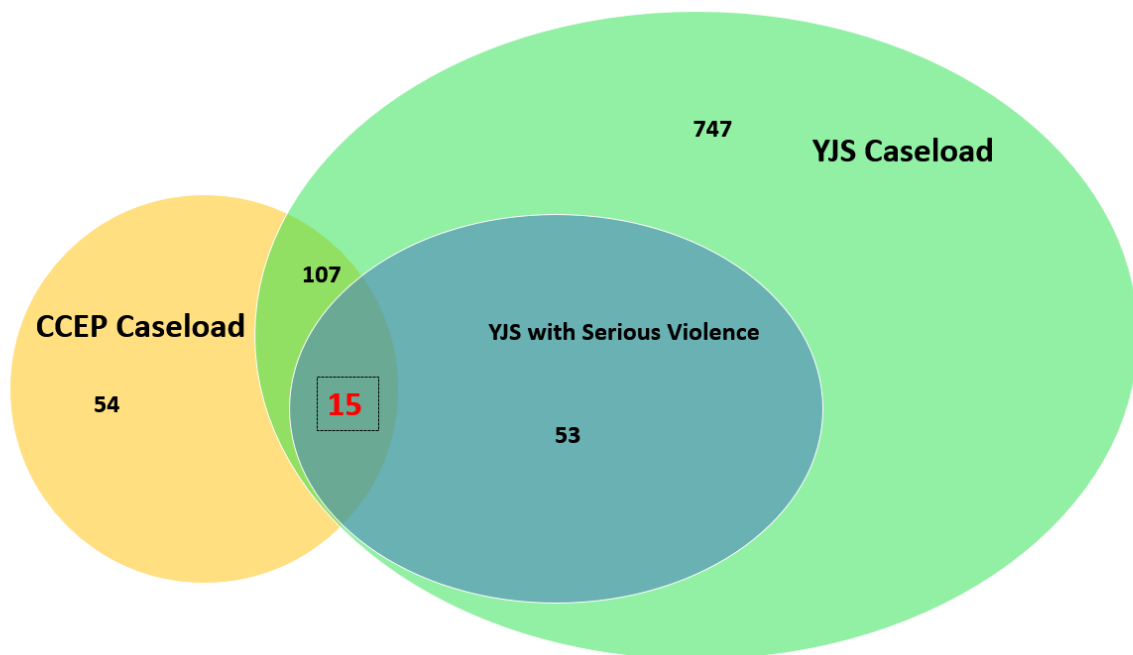
Conclusions

Slavery and exploitation of both adults and children would appear to intersect with an increased risk of violence. With children there is some evidence that they face an increased risk of perpetrating violence, whilst there is no data available on this for adults. For adults there is stronger evidence of exploited persons being the victims of violence but a lack of data about involvement in committing violent acts. As stronger partnership arrangements develop around both child and adult exploitation, there will be an improved knowledge base which will increase understanding of the nature of violence and the scale of exploitation and associated violence.

Clearly the priority is to get upstream and to prevent this exploitation, but additionally all of these people affected by violence present a challenge in terms of the longer-term impact on them and their propensity for further victimisation and/or committing violence, but also an opportunity in that they are known to agencies and can be supported.

Violent Crime

Serious Violence (NNVRU Scope)

This section looks at data taken from Nottinghamshire Police Management Information and covers Serious Violence offences as defined in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire VRU's Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) 2020. It compares data from November 2019 to October 2020 to the period from November 2016 to October 2019 which informed the 2020 SNA. The pattern of serious violence has followed three broad periods over the last year, the pre-pandemic period from November 2019 to March 2020, the first national lockdown from April to June 2020 and the postlockdown period until October 2020. The impact of these periods on serious violence is also considered.

Table 8 shows there were 13,082 serious violence offences recorded in the NNVRU area in the last year, which is 14.4% lower than the average over the three years which informed the 2020 SNA. The number of offences fell in nearly every violence category except Homicide and Possession of articles with a blade or point.

Table 8 Serious violence recorded offences by Nottinghamshire Police, November 2019 to October 2020 and comparison to annual average from November 2016 to October 2019.

Source Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information.

NNVRU Serious Violence		Nov 19 to Oct 20		% change compared to Nov 16 to Oct 19 annual average.
		Number	%	
Violence Against the Person (VAP)	Homicide	14	0.1	31.3
	Violence with Injury (exc. ABH)	1,221	9.3	-8.0
	S47 Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm	9,438	72.1	-15.9
	Remaining VAP offences – Knife-enabled	49	0.4	-40.2
Robbery (Knife enabled)	Robbery of Personal Property	216	1.7	-22.7
	Robbery of Business Property	28	0.2	-18.4
Sexual Violence	Rape	764	5.8	-18.3
	Sexual Assault	854	6.5	-6.8
Weapon Offences	Possession of Articles with a Blade or Point	498	3.8	3.5
All Serious Violence		13,082	100.0	-14.4

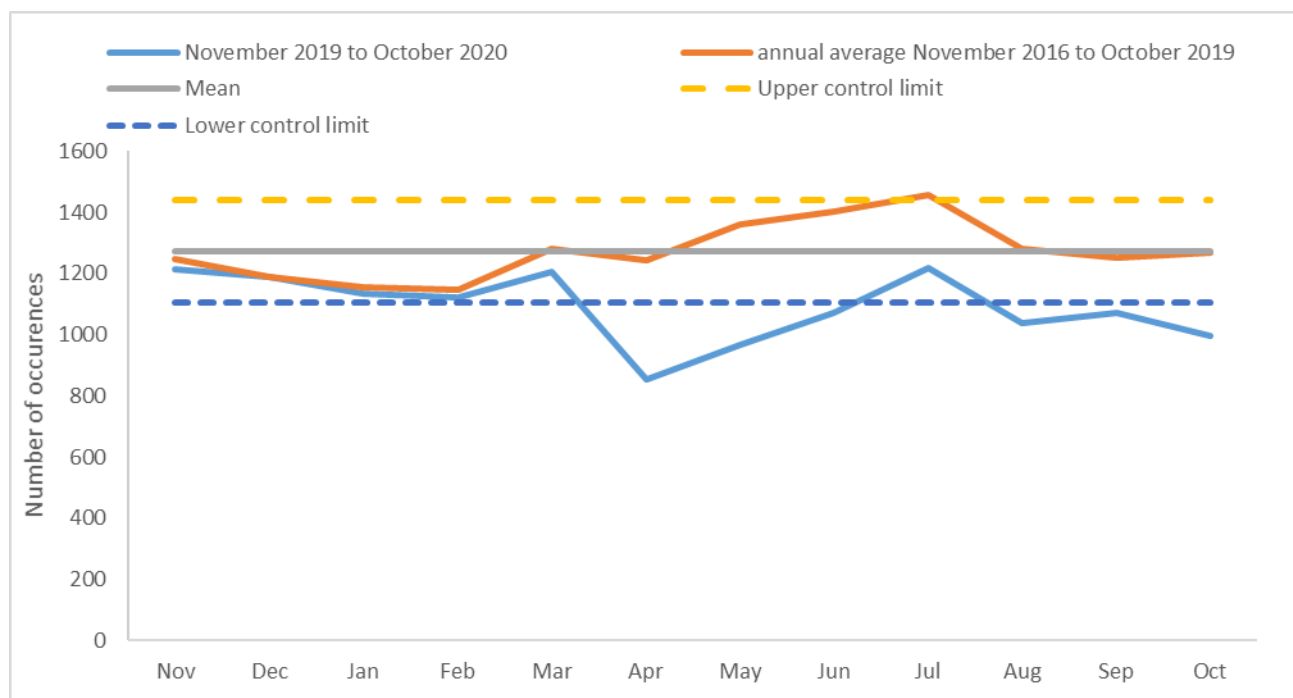Figure 17 shows the number of serious violence offences in the last year compared to the average over the previous three years. It shows that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of offences between November 2019 and February 2020 was broadly in line with the average of the previous three years. The number of offences diverged from the three-year average slightly throughout March 2020 and dropped significantly in April 2020

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(31.3% lower than the three-year average), the first full month of the national lockdown when schools and most workplaces either closed or shifted to working from home. Offences rose in the following two months, broadly following the previously observed seasonal pattern, but at 26.2% lower than average. Offences peaked in July and since then have again followed the seasonal pattern. The gap to the three-year average narrowed in the post-lockdown period as some restrictions were eased, but the number of offences remained 17.8% lower than in the previous three years. From April to October 2020 the number of serious violence offences was statistically significantly lower than the long-term average in every month except August.

Figure 17 Serious violence November 2019 to October 2019 and average per month November 2016 to October 2019. Source Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information.

Temporal pattern

Overall the number of serious violence offences fell on every day of the week and in every time period within the day. The largest falls were in the number of offences committed between midnight on Saturday and 6am on Sunday morning, which fell by 39.8%. Offences committed between midnight and 6am on any day fell by nearly a quarter compared to the average over the previous three years. This is likely to be linked to restricted opening times for hospitality venues for much of the last year. The largest falls for any crime category were for Violence Against the Person offences linked to the Night Time Economy[2] which were 43.6% lower than average over the whole year and 84.5% lower in April 2020 as the first national lockdown was implemented. The falls in violence

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[2] Violence against the person offences where the victim was not related to the offender and the offence occurred outside a domestic dwelling between 6pm and 6am.

related to the NTE were significantly lower than the long-term average in every month from January to October 2020.

Location of violence

Nottingham City continued to have the highest rate of offences per 1,000 population in the NNVRU area, followed by Mansfield. Both areas, however, saw the largest falls in reported offences in the last year compared to the average of the previous three years. These districts are the main urban areas in the NNVRU area and act as hubs for work, education, entertainment and transport. The large daily influx of non-residents can exaggerate the rate of serious violence offences in these areas. Restrictions limiting travel and the opening of businesses and schools since the start of the national lockdown have reduced the daily flow of people into these urban areas and contributed to larger falls in the number of offences committed.

Table 9 Location of reported offences by district, Serious Violence in the NNVRU area. November 2019 to October 2020. Source Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information.

	Number of offences	Rate per 1,000 population	% of NNVRU	% change compared to 2020 SNA annual average
Nottingham City	5,238	15.7	40.0	-20.1
Nottinghamshire County	7,844	9.5	60.0	-10.2
Ashfield	1,496	11.7	11.4	-9.4
Bassetlaw	1,356	11.5	10.4	-3.2
Broxtowe	797	7.0	6.1	-6.9
Gedling	911	7.7	7.0	-4.5
Mansfield	1,593	14.6	12.2	-17.8
Newark & Sherwood	1,104	9.0	8.4	-17.1
Rushcliffe	587	4.9	4.5	-2.9
NNVRU total	13,082	11.3	100.0	-14.4

Figure 18 shows that the overall fall in serious violence in the last year is not consistent across either crime types or geographical areas. The largest falls tend to show the areas which had a high proportion of particular crime types in the 2020 SNA, notably crimes related to the Night Time Economy. The areas which saw increases tend to be those where NTE violence made up a relatively small proportion of serious violent crimes. Furthermore, this emphasises that a large fall in violence doesn't mean it occurred across

all crime types and in some areas the large falls related to NTE violence may obscure increases in other violence types.

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Figure 18 % Change in all serious violence occurrences by ward, November 2019 to October 2020 compared to annual average from November 2016 to October 2019.

Source Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information.

Change in occurrences
- -342
- -341 - -100
- -99 - -10
- -9 - 10
- 11 - 37
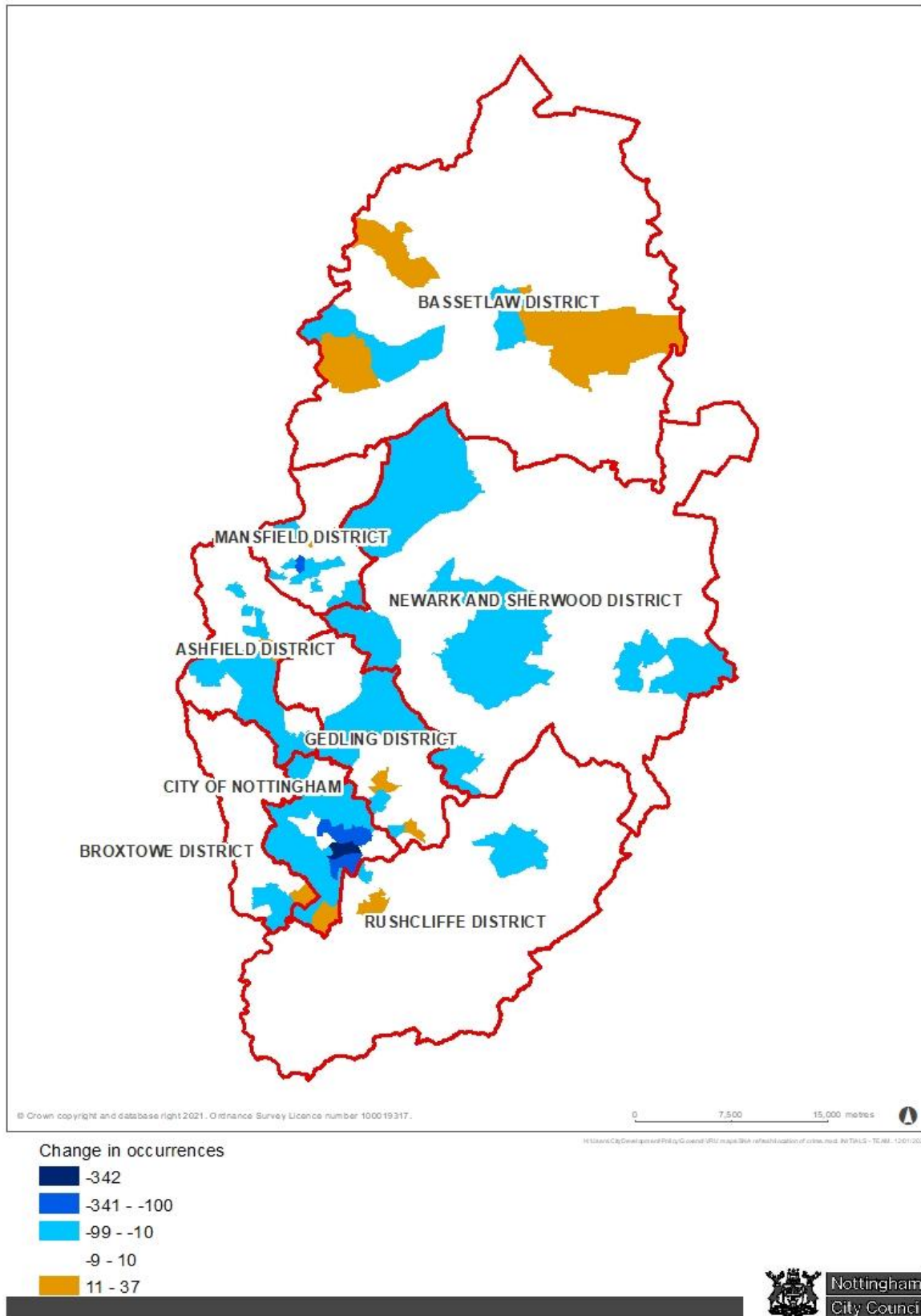
Types of Violence

Most of the categories of serious violence outlined in the NNVRU's serious violence scope have broadly followed the pattern for all serious violence over the course of the year. This section looks at the key variations to this pattern.

Violence Against the Person (VAP)

82.6% of all serious violence offences in the NNVRU area were violence against the person offences. VAP offences therefore tend to mirror the pattern for all offences quite closely, but there is some variation within the category. This variation can be seen by using the police classification of VAP offences as either Domestic Violence[3], Violence related to the Night-Time Economy and General Violence. As discussed previously, Violence related to the Night-Time Economy saw the largest fall of any violence type compared to the previous three years (-43.6%) and this fall was most noticeable during the lockdown period when the greatest restrictions were in place. 'General Violence' followed a similar pattern with a less exaggerated decline during the lockdown months and an overall fall of 14.3%. Although 'General Violence' offences were lower than average for most of the year, the fall was only statistically significant in four months, in April and May during the first national lockdown and in August and October.

Domestic violence, however, showed an overall fall of just 3.3% compared to the previous year and a quite different temporal and spatial pattern. In the pre-pandemic period, domestic violence offences were slightly below the three-year average, but increased during the lockdown period before falling back to their pre-pandemic levels as lockdown restrictions were released. The fall of 3.3% also conceals large geographic variations. The number of offences in Mansfield and Nottingham City fell by 14.8% and 11.6% respectively in the last year, although these areas still had the highest rates of offences per 1,000 population. Despite the large fall in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire County saw an increase of 2.3% in the last year driven largely by increased numbers of offences in Bassetlaw (+19.8%) and Broxtowe (+15.3%) districts.

The SNA looked at VAP offences excluding ABH and domestic violence, to both focus on the relatively high harm VAP offences and remove the impacts of the different pattern to domestic violence offences. There were 1,021 offences of this type in the last year a fall of 10.9% compared to the average of the previous three years. This was a smaller decrease than for all VAP offences and for all Serious Violence. The fall in offences was only statistically significant in February, before the pandemic began and in the first month of the national lockdown (April).

Weapon offences

Offences related to 'Possession of Articles with a blade or point' increased by 3.5% compared to the average over the previous three years. The number of offences fell in

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[3] Domestic violence is defined here as violence against the person incidents between intimate partners or other relatives. Other non-physical forms of domestic abuse are not covered in this definition. For more detailed information on local responses to all forms of domestic abuse, see https://www.nottinghaminsight.org.uk/themes/health-and-wellbeing/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/adults/domestic-and-sexual-violence-and-abuse-2018/

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April 2020 as the first national lockdown came into effect but otherwise the number of offences has stayed around or above the three-year average for most of the year.

There is some geographical variation to the numbers as well, with Nottingham City seeing a fall of 4.8% compared to the three-year average, while offences rose by 13.6% in Nottinghamshire. The Nottinghamshire figure was driven by large increases in offences in Mansfield (+51.0%) and Ashfield (+27.2%). Despite these changes, Nottingham City has the highest rate of weapon possession offences (0.8 per 1,000 population) and its rate is more than double the County rate, although only slightly higher than Mansfield's rate of 0.7.

The SNA identified a link between detection of these offences and police resources for activity such as stop or search. The increase in Mansfield and Ashfield is likely to be, in part, due to increased targeting of knife possession offences in these areas.

Sexual Violence and Knife-Enabled Robbery
The remaining offence types broadly followed the overall pattern of falling during the lockdown and then increasing as restrictions were released but not yet rising to their pre-pandemic level. Knife-enabled robberies saw a larger annual fall in offences as offences during the pre-pandemic period from November 2019 to March 2020 were already lower than the average across the previous three years. These falls were only statistically significant in April, June and October 2020

The number of sexual violence offences was higher than the three-year average in the pre-pandemic period but fell rapidly in March 2020. Offence numbers fell further in April and May 2020 and were statistically significantly lower than the long-term average. Offence numbers have risen throughout the rest of the year, but remain 13.9% lower than the three-year average in October 2020 although not the difference is not statistically significant from June 2020 onwards.

Alcohol related crime
It became mandatory to report alcohol as an influence in offences in April 2017, so this section compares the data from the last year to the last two years of the data from the SNA (November 2017 to October 2019).

Alcohol was cited as an influencing factor in over 3,000 serious violence offences in the last year. This was 23.6% lower than the average of the previous two years and a larger fall than in non-alcohol related offences (-15.7%). The fall is likely to be strongly linked to the restrictions on hospitality venues and the Night-Time Economy since April 2020. Despite this fall, alcohol was still a factor in 23.2% of all serious violence offences in the last year, compared to 25.0% in previous years.

Falls in alcohol-related offences occurred in all parts of the NNVRU area except Gedling which saw a 6.1% increase. The largest falls were in Mansfield (-34.5%) and Nottingham City (-29.5%) but these areas still had the highest rates of alcohol-related crime per 1,000 population (3.5 and 3.7 per 1,000 respectively).

Knife crime

In addition to weapon possession offences, police forces also record if a knife or sharp object was involved in other serious violence offences. There were 738 serious violence offences involving a knife in the last year. The number of offences was 10.8% lower than the average during the three-year period analysed for the SNA, but the proportion of serious violence offences which involved a knife or sharp object increased slightly in the last year. This was particularly the case in the highest harm violence against the person offences (those excluding ABH) where more than one in five offences involved a knife.

More than half of the knife crime offences were committed in Nottingham City. The City saw the largest fall in knife crime offences (-18.2%) in the last year, but still had a higher rate (1.1 per 1,000 population) than the County districts. There have been falls in most types of violent offences involving a knife in the last year but there was a 5.9% increase in Violence against the Person offences which were classed as Domestic Violence and involved a knife.

Gun Crime

Between November 2019 and October 2020, there were 41 serious violence offences across the NNVRU area which were recorded as involving a gun. This was slightly higher than the average of 39 per year across the 2020 SNA. This suggests that the pandemic had little impact on the prevalence of gun crime in the area.

Given the serious nature of gun crime, the figures will continue to be monitored. However, the relatively small number of offences recorded means that it is difficult to analyse geographical variation or changes over time as differences are unlikely to be statistically significant.

The 41 offences in the last year occurred in 34 different Super Output Areas, and of these, only two had recorded a gun crime offence in the previous three years. 18 of the offences were recorded in Nottingham City which means gun crimes are overrepresented in the City relative to its population. The only other overrepresented district is Bassetlaw, although again this is based on a relatively small number of 7 offences.

38 of the gun crime offences were Violence against the Person offences, of which 26 were considered ABH offences and 12 the higher harm, Violence with Injury offences. None of the gun crime offences in the last year or during the 2020 SNA were categorised as Homicide offences.

Victims of Serious Violence

The Nottinghamshire Police Management Information System matched a victim to 96.3% of serious violence offences in the NNVRU area (12,062 out of 13,702 offences). The majority of the gap was around weapon possession offences which can occur without a victim. 11,035 individuals were identified as the victim of these offences.

Area of residence

Just over a third of victims of serious violence (33.5%) were Nottingham City residents. This proportion is virtually unchanged compared to the three years covered by the original SNA. The proportion of victims living in Nottinghamshire County has however increased slightly from 55.9% to 59.0% with a corresponding fall in the proportion of victims from outside the NNVRU area.

The proportion of victims who are Nottingham City residents increases to 46.9% for victims of knife-enabled robbery and to 41.6% for victims in weapon possession offences. The lowest proportion of City-based victims is for the most serious violence against the person offences (excluding ABH). For this category the proportion falls to 30.6%, although this is still a larger percentage than the City's share of the NNVRU population.

Table 10 shows victims' area of residence in relation to where the offence occurred. In every district, for offences which occurred in the NNVRU area, the offence was most likely to have been committed in the victim's home district. However, this proportion varies from more than 90% of victims in Bassetlaw and Nottingham City to just 61.5% in Gedling district.

These variations are again likely to be linked to commuting patterns and the area over which local economies and services function. Therefore, the districts with highest proportions of people who have been a victim of serious violence in Nottingham City are those from the three surrounding districts (Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe). In Gedling district, nearly a quarter of serious violence victims had offences committed against them in Nottingham City.

However, victims of serious violence from Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood are more likely to have had offences committed against them in Mansfield, and Mansfield residents in Ashfield district, demonstrating the stronger geographical and economic links between these districts. Again, Bassetlaw stands out as having relatively few offences occurring outside the district, but this is likely to demonstrate the district's proximity and links to South Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

40.6% of offences where the victim lived outside of Nottinghamshire occurred in Nottingham City. The next highest proportion was 12.6% in Bassetlaw, again demonstrating the districts links to neighbouring counties. Both Broxtowe and Mansfield also had more than 10% of offences involving residents from outside Nottinghamshire, again reflecting the proximity to these districts of urban parts of Derbyshire.

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Table 10 Victim home address and location of offence for all serious violence offences, NNVRU area, November 2019 – October 2020.

Source: Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information.

Area of residence	Area offence committed		
	Home district	Nottingham City	Other district
Ashfield	85.7	4.4	9.9
Bassetlaw	95.9	1.7	2.3
Broxtowe	81.5	14.0	4.4
Gedling	61.5	24.7	13.8
Mansfield	88.0	1.7	10.3
Newark and Sherwood	88.2	2.4	9.4
Nottingham	92.2	n/a	7.8
Rushcliffe	77.3	17.9	4.7
Outside Nottinghamshire	n/a	40.6	59.4
Total	80.2	7.8	12.0

The proportion of offences committed in the victim's home district rose in the last year. During the 2020 SNA, 73.8% of offences occurred in the victim's home district, with a further 10.9% of offences occurring in Nottingham City where the victim was not a City resident. Between November 2019 and October 2020, 80.2% of offences occurred in the victim's home district. The largest increases were in Gedling and Rushcliffe districts where the proportions increased by more than 10 percentage points. This is likely to be a result of lockdown restrictions which reduced travel between districts for work, education and leisure.

Deprivation

Figure 19 groups victims based on the level of deprivation in their local area according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019). Areas are grouped by quintile, with "1" representing areas which are in the most deprived 20% of areas in England. It shows that while 27.0% of Nottinghamshire residents live in areas which rank in the 20% most deprived, 46.6% of victims lived in these areas. This varies between 40.7% of victims of Violence against the Person offences in the Night-Time Economy and 49.5% of Domestic Violence victims.

Figure 19 Victims of serious violence offences by deprivation quintile of their home address, NNVRU area, November 2019 – October 2020.

Source: Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information. English Indices of Deprivation 2019, CLG.
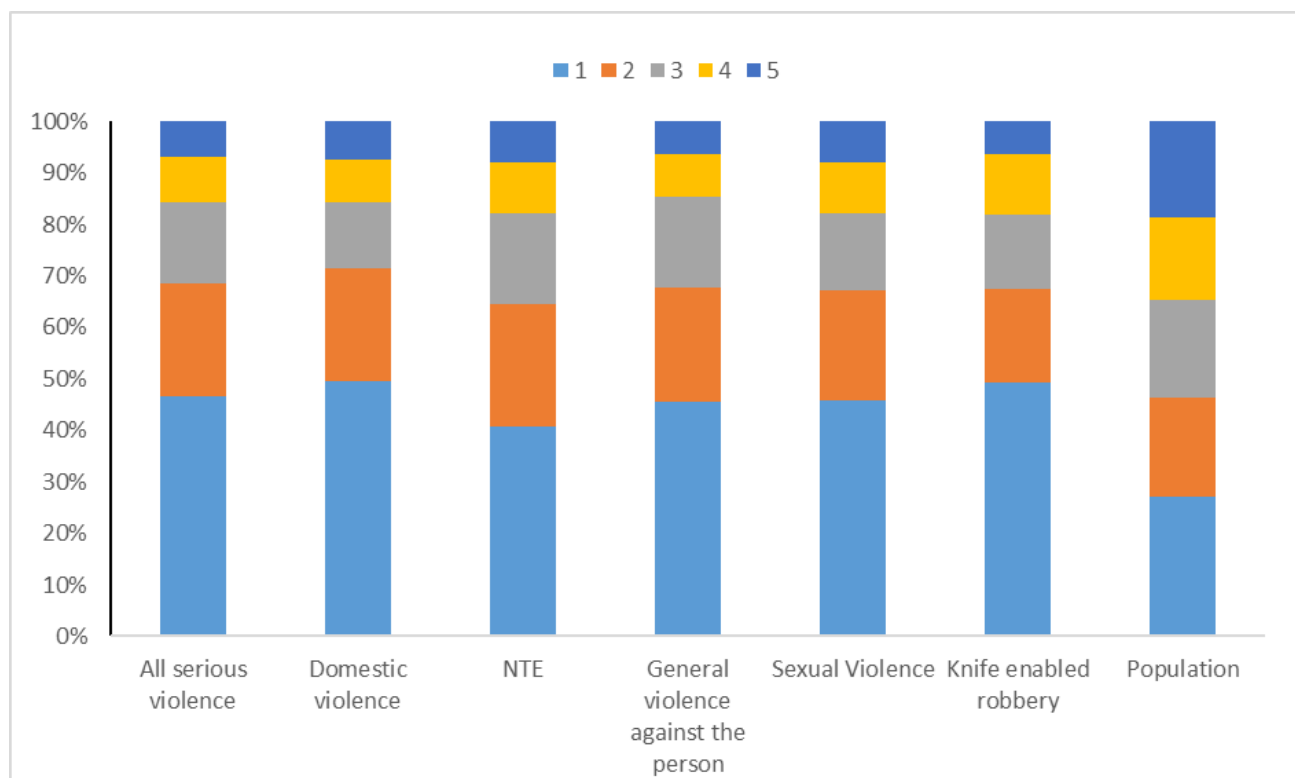
The pattern was largely unchanged compared to the 2020 SNA. The main difference was in victims of domestic violence where the proportion of victims increased in quintiles 4 and 5, the least deprived parts of the NNVRU area.

Demographics of victims

The demographic profile of victims has remained broadly the same between November 2019 and October 2020 when compared to the 2020 SNA. The age profile of victims has shifted slightly towards older age groups with the proportion of victims aged under 30 falling by 3.9 percentage points. Despite this, more than half of victims are aged under 30 and the highest proportion are in the 20-24 age group (Figure 20).

Figure 20 Proportion of victims by age, NNVRU area, November 2016 to October 2020.

Source: Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information
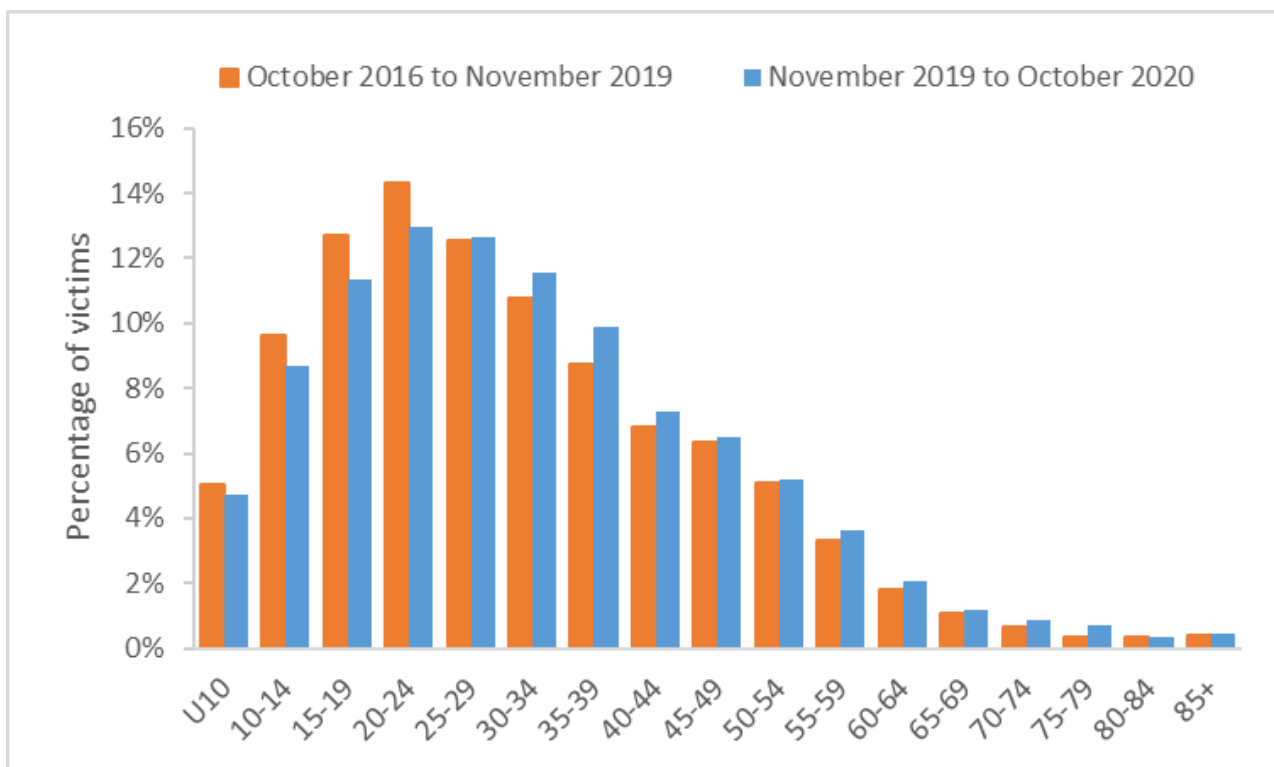
Variation across different types of violence follows a similar pattern to that found in the 2020 SNA. Knife-enabled robberies and sexual violence have the youngest age profiles with nearly two thirds of victims aged under 30. Victims of violence against the person offences, in particular those excluding ABH, tend to have an older and broader age profile with the highest proportions of victims in the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups respectively.

Across different violence types, there was relatively little variation compared to the SNA. Only knife-enabled robberies saw an increase in the proportion of female victims, although men still account for nearly 80% of victims of these offences. Similar patterns can also be seen to those reported in the SNA. Men and women are almost equally likely to be victims of violence against the person offences although the proportion of male victims increases to 65.0% if ABH offences are excluded. More than 80% of victims of sexual violence are female.

Difficulties remain in analysing the ethnicity of victims due to relatively low levels of data completion. The pattern remains similar to that reported in the SNA with 87.7% of victims who gave their ethnic group being from White ethnic groups, with Black or Black British groups forming the next highest proportion (4.9%).

Perpetrators of Serious Violence

This section refers to the offenders of the 1,947 serious violence offences which occurred between November 2019 and October 2020 which received a positive police outcome. Data quality issues meant that the Police Management Information System matched 1,816 offences (93.3%) to an offender, with these offences being carried out by 1,507 unique individuals.

Area of Residence

Overall, 34.0% of offenders lived in Nottingham City, 53.8% in Nottinghamshire and 12.3% were from outside the area (although this includes 2.3% of offenders whose address was given as a prison or young offender institution outside the NNVRU area). In comparison to the 2020 SNA, there has been a small increase in the proportion of offenders from Nottinghamshire, and a fall in offenders from outside the NNVRU area.

Table 11 shows both the home district of offenders and the district where they committed their offence in Nottinghamshire. Overall, more than two thirds of offenders committed their offence in the district where they are currently resident. 12.1% of offenders travelled into Nottingham City to commit their offence and 20.8% committed their offence in another district away from their home district.

The variation in Table 11 broadly reflects the NNVRU area's geography. Nottingham City and Mansfield are the main urban centres and have the highest levels of commuting for work, study, travel and entertainment and this is reflected in the high levels of offenders who offend in their home area. The more suburban districts, particularly those around Nottingham City, show a higher proportion of offenders who have committed an offence in other areas, particularly in Nottingham City, as residents of these districts have high levels of engagement with the urban centres. The exception to this pattern is Bassetlaw district, although this may reflect its closer proximity to Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. Offences carried out in these counties would not be reflected in these figures.

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Table 11 Offender home address and location of offence for all serious violence offences, NNVRU area, November 2019 – October 2020.

Source: Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information.

Area of residence	Area offence committed		
	Home district	Nottingham City	Other district
Ashfield	72.9	12.4	14.7
Bassetlaw	85.6	4.6	9.7
Broxtowe	72.9	22.4	4.7
Gedling	60.7	24.7	14.6
Mansfield	84.2	3.3	12.6
Newark and Sherwood	76.1	7.5	16.4
Nottingham	83.2	n/a	16.8
Rushcliffe	70.5	20.5	9.1
Out of area	n/a	42.5	57.5
Total	67.1	12.1	20.7

The pattern observed in Table 11 is slightly different compared to that observed in the 2020 SNA (November 2016 to October 2019). In the last year, a higher proportion of offenders have committed offences in their home district and a smaller proportion of offenders have been County and out-of-area residents committing offences in Nottingham City. This is likely to reflect the greater restriction on travel and businesses which have been in place for much of the last year.

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Demographics
Figure 21 shows that the age profile of offenders has shifted slightly in the last year towards an older profile, with the highest proportion of offenders in the 30-34 year group in the last year compared to the 25-29 age group in the 2020 SNA. The proportion of offenders aged under 30 has fallen from 52.9% to 48.7% in the last year.

Figure 21 Proportion of offenders by age, NNVRU area, November 2016 to October 2020.

Source: Nottinghamshire Police, Management Information
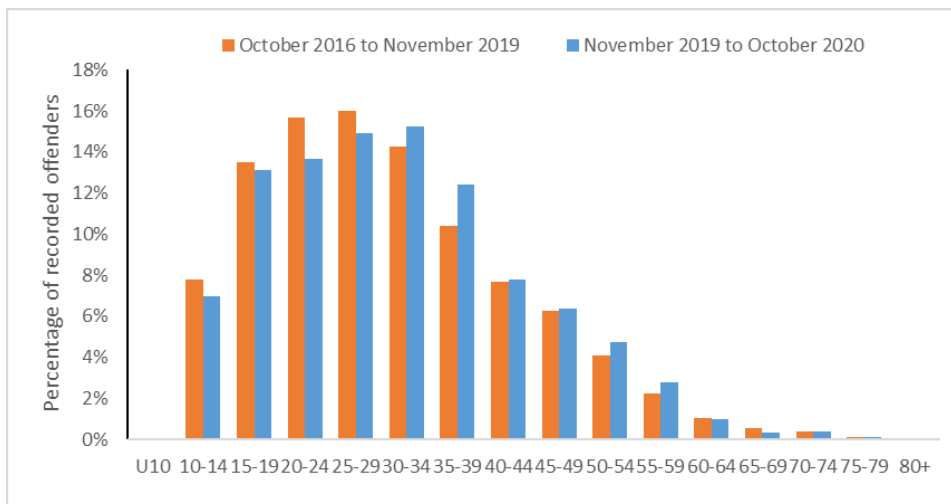
The gender split of offenders was broadly unchanged compared to the 2020 SNA with 82.0% of offenders being male.

Data on offenders' ethnicity remains difficult to analyse with just 71.0% of offenders having identified their ethnic group in the last year. The ethnic breakdown of those who did give an ethnic group was similar to that identified in the SNA with 83.6% from White ethnic groups, 6.7% from Black or Black British groups, 3.8% from Mixed ethnic groups and 3.5% from Asian or Asian British groups.

Where to Find Information on Domestic Violence
Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City both have a history of strong, evidence-based partnership working to tackle domestic abuse. The approach taken within the VRU SNA is not to duplicate the significant analytical work that continues to support that agenda. For those interested in more detail about domestic violence locally and how it relates to the national context, the following publications will be of particular interest (see Bibliography for details):

Nottinghamshire Joint Services Needs Analysis - Domestic Abuse (Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, 2019)

Nottingham City Council, 2018. Domestic and sexual violence and abuse (2018) - Nottingham Insight.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 2020. Improving the response to domestic violence and abuse in Nottinghamshire a whole systems approach

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These documents are supplemented by reports produced by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership.

NB The Improving the Response document is due to be finalised by end of January 2021

Synthesis

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on all aspects of life in the last year, including on the prevalence and experience of serious violence. The SNA refresh 2021 has inevitably been coloured by the experience of the pandemic and has started to analyse the initial impacts and to look into how it will continue to impact lives into the future.

Over the last year, restrictions on individuals' movements and closures of workplaces, schools and leisure facilities have reduced contacts between individuals and caused an overall decline in serious violence. This decline however has not been uniform across different types of violence or across the geographical area covered by the NNVRU.

Large falls have been seen in violence related to the Night-Time Economy and therefore in the area's city and town centres. There have also been large falls in knife-enabled robberies of individuals and businesses as fewer people are moving around and fewer businesses have been open. Conversely, the first national lockdown led to increases in domestic violence offences reported to the police with evidence from other services suggesting this increase was the peak of a broader increase in domestic violence and abuse.

Although the overall fall in serious violent crime is welcome, levels have fluctuated throughout the year, broadly in response to tightening and loosening of lockdown restrictions. This suggests that the lower levels of violence are unlikely to be sustained once restrictions are released. In addition to this, research and local experience suggests that the pandemic may have had significant impacts on the underlying factors which can influence the likelihood of individuals being affected by serious violence.

Work on identifying the impact of these factors is at varying stages. Some factors such as its impact on the education, health and wellbeing of young people, increases in mental health issues and worsening of deprivation and family finances have already been identified as potentially having both short- and long-term consequences for serious violence. Furthermore, other factors may emerge as more data becomes available and research continues. Research is ongoing into both the direct and indirect consequences of the pandemic on serious violence and it will remain a factor in the VRU's analysis and response for the foreseeable future.

The recommendations in the SNA refresh 2021 reflect the need to be aware of the changes in serious violence in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire as a result of the pandemic both in the short and long term. It acknowledges that while this has been a hugely disruptive event with ongoing impacts, the conclusions drawn from the 2020 SNA and the related recommendations are still relevant. As such, the 2021 refresh also makes recommendations based on issues identified by the VRU's work in the last year. The new recommendations are very much viewed as an addition to the VRU's work rather than a replacement for the previous ones.

New Recommendations

Whilst the majority of the themes and recommendations from the previous SNA remain ongoing, the research and engagement NNVRU has conducted in the last nine months, as well as current events, have led to additional recommendations:

Understanding the impact of COVID-19
The current COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its associated lockdowns, has had a huge effect on patterns violence in the NNVRU area and the longer-term impact is not clear at this point.

> **New Recommendation 1:** continue to examine the impact of COVID-19 as data becomes available providing interim update(s) to the SNA where appropriate.

Exploring the factors that lead to males becoming perpetrators of violence
Males form the huge majority of perpetrators of reported violence. Locally, as well as support for male victims of violence, there are interventions to work with boys showing evidence of displaying negative behaviours or attitudes that increase the risk factor for domestic abuse and violence (Equation, n.d.). There is a need for a greater understanding of how boys experiencing or witnessing domestic violence respond to this trauma and ACEs. Why in some cases they develop harmful beliefs and behaviours and in others go on to develop healthy and loving relationships in adulthood.

> **New Recommendation 2:** to commission research into how boys' beliefs and behaviours develop in relation to violence and the extent to which boys who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence are more likely to develop harmful beliefs and behaviours and what factors provide greater resilience.

Encouraging partners to adopt Trauma Informed Practice
> The commitment of local agencies to developing a trauma-informed approach to services was reflected in the NNVRU Board decision in October 2020 to adopt a trauma-informed framework for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County and supported by both the 2020 SNA and again in this document (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020). This is a long-term aspiration that needs to be understood at every organisational level so that decisionmakers design services that are appropriate and so that frontline staff have the skills and confidence to meet the needs of service users. The next year will see the introduction of a training package with modules for practitioners and for managers. The development of a joint, strategic approach will ensure that good practice is embedded at the heart of delivery and continues to evolve to meet the needs of citizens

> **New Recommendation 3:** support the development of an embedded, trauma-informed practice through a) a Trauma-Informed Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and b) the development of a suite of learning tools for practitioners, managers, leaders and other stakeholders in the voluntary and community, private and public sectors.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Violence

The Literature Review highlighted that whilst ACEs is increasingly seen as a useful tool for identifying risk, it is a relatively new approach and there have been concerns that it is insufficiently understood and can be used inappropriately (Early Intervention Foundation, 2020) (Wales NHS, 2020).

New Recommendation 4: to further explore the impact of ACEs on violence within communities as a response to trauma (perpetrator) (see Recommendation 2 above) and as an ongoing risk (victim) including interventions to break the cycle of violence within communities.

Improving Data Quality

In light of some of the continuing gaps in local data highlighted in both the 2020 SNA and this update, NNVRU commits to the following.

New Recommendation 5: The NNVRU will:

a. work with partners to improve the quality of ethnicity data in key datasets to support improved analysis of the impact of serious violence on different ethnic groups. This will involve both working with agencies to improve data collection and with communities to build mutual trust in the provision of personal data and its use.
b. support the development of the Emergency Care Dataset and the integration of assault victim data from emergency departments into future work.
c. work with alternative education providers to provide data that enables analysis of the progress of young people attending such provision with those attending mainstream schools. As identified last year, data on school-aged young people attending alternative education provision is not consistently shared and the data quality is inconsistent limiting the ability to interrogate the data received by local authorities.

Trusted Adult Relationships

There is a growing body of research into the value to children in having a relationship with an adult they can trust when they are experiencing, or have experienced, adverse life experiences (ACEs). That may mean that adult being available when they need to talk but an increasing emphasis is being placed on longer-term relationships with trusted adults (Lewing, et al., 2018). In the main, this will involve immediate family members but, where there is a deficit, there may be a role for others such as "sports coaches, street outreach workers, workplace mentors, youth workers or other community adults" (Whitehead, et al., 2019). The Home Office's Trusted Relationship Fund pilot programme will end in March 2022 and further evidence should be provided by the evaluation (Home Office Safeguarding Unit, 2018). In addition to this there is the concern that children (and also practitioners) suffer when the services they receive, such as social care, are delivered by a stream of different practitioners either due to staff turnover or rotation or to the provision of a range of services (Le Grand, 2007). These three broad approaches may all be beneficial but the research suggests that how this supported is structured and delivered is key (Lewing, et al., 2018). NNVRU have commissioned the National Youth Agency to develop high standards in youth work

and the a better understanding of trusted adult relationships could add value to this work in addition to informing practice in other services.

New Recommendation 6: to conduct an audit of professional adult relationship schemes and practice inclusive of mentoring and youth work in the NNVRU area and more widely to identify good practice to be shared with practitioners locally and more widely.

Early Intervention to Prevent Entering Youth Justice System

A research project by the City Youth Justice Service has reviewed the experience of service users with special education needs and disabilities (SEND); specifically those diagnosable but not diagnosed with neuro-diverse conditions. Initial findings suggest that although professionals have raised concerns at a much earlier date, some young people are not receiving a diagnosis and appropriate support until entering the Youth Justice System with early intervention opportunities being missed. This insight needs to be explored more fully before any conclusions are drawn.

New Recommendation 6: to review the findings of the project and implications for improved practice.

Serious organised crime and violence

The SNA looks at the links between exploitation and violence with particular reference to the supply of drugs. Research in London (Wieshmann, et al., 2020)has further identified that neighbourhoods with an organised crime presence are associated with high levels of violence. Discussions are currently taking place with Nottinghamshire Police and the University of Nottingham's Rights Lab on research proposals with regard to both modern slavery and organised crime.

New Recommendation 7: to work with Nottinghamshire Police and the Rights Lab to further understand the role that serious organised crime and slavery and exploitation play as drivers of violence in the NNRVU area.

Appendix: East Midlands Ambulance Service Despatch Codes

Despatch Codes relating to Violence (excluding despatch codes for self-harm)

Despatch Code	Despatch Code Description
04A01A	Marked (*) not dangerous proximal or distal body area with deformity - assault
04A01S	Marked (*) not dangerous proximal or distal body area with deformity - sexual assault
04A02A	Not dangerous proximal body area - assault
04A02S	Not dangerous proximal body area - sexual assault
04A03A	Non-recent (6hrs and above) injuries except distal body area (without priority symptoms) - assault
04A03S	Non-recent (6hrs and above) injuries except distal body area (without priority symptoms) - sexual assault
04A03T	Non-recent (6hrs and above) injuries except distal body area (without priority symptoms) - stun gun
04B01A	Possibly dangerous body area - assault
04B01S	Possibly dangerous body area - sexual assault
04B02A	Serious haemorrhage - assault
04B02S	Serious haemorrhage - sexual assault
04B02T	Serious haemorrhage - stun gun
04B03A	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - assault
04B03S	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - sexual assault
04B03T	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - stun gun
04D01A	Arrest - assault
04D01T	Arrest - stun gun
04D02A	Unconscious - assault
04D02S	Unconscious - sexual assault
04D02T	Unconscious - stun gun
04D03A	Not alert - assault
04D03S	Not alert - sexual assault
04D03T	Not alert - stun gun
04D04A	Chest or neck injury (with difficulty breathing) assault
04D05A	Multiple victims - assault
04O01A	Not dangerous distal body area - assault
04O01S	Not dangerous distal body area - sexual assault
04O02A	Non-recent (6hrs and above) injuries to distal body area (without priority symptoms) assault
04B02A	Serious haemorrhage - assault
04D03A	Not alert - assault
04D03A	Not alert - assault
04A03A	Non-recent (6hrs and above) injuries except distal body area (without priority symptoms) - assault
04D02A	Unconscious - assault
04D02A	Unconscious - assault
04B02A	Serious haemorrhage - assault
27D01S	Arrest - stab
27D03S	Not alert - stab

04B01A	Possibly dangerous body area - assault
04B03A	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - assault
04D02A	Unconscious - assault
04D03A	Not alert - assault
04B01A	Possibly dangerous body area - assault
04B02A	Serious haemorrhage - assault
04D02A	Unconscious - assault
04D03A	Not alert - assault
04D04A	Chest or neck injury (with difficulty breathing) assault
27D04S	Central wounds - stab
04B01A	Possibly dangerous body area - assault
27D03S	Not alert - stab
27A01P	Non-recent (6hrs and above) peripheral wounds (without priority symptoms) penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27B01P	Non-recent (6hrs and above) single central wound - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27B01S	Non-recent (6hrs and above) single central wound - stab
27B02G	Known single peripheral wound - gunshot
27B02I	Known single peripheral wound - impaled currently
27B02P	Known single peripheral wound - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27B02S	Known single peripheral wound - stab
27B03G	Serious haemorrhage - gunshot
27B03I	Serious haemorrhage - impaled currently
27B03P	Serious haemorrhage - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27B03S	Serious haemorrhage - stab
27B04G	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - gunshot
27B04I	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - impaled currently
27B04P	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27B04S	Unknown status/other codes not applicable - stab
27D01G	Arrest - gunshot
27D01P	Arrest - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27D01S	Arrest - stab
27D02G	Unconscious - gunshot
27D02S	Unconscious - stab
27D03G	Not alert - gunshot
27D03I	Not alert - impaled currently
27D03P	Not alert - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27D03S	Not alert - stab
27D04G	Central wounds - gunshot
27D04I	Central wounds - impaled currently
27D04P	Central wounds - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27D04S	Central wounds - stab
27D05G	Multiple wounds - gunshot
27D05I	Multiple wounds - impaled currently
27D05P	Multiple wounds - penetrating wound (not impaled now)
27D05S	Multiple wounds - stab
27D06S	Multiple victims - stab
27D03S	Not alert - stab
04D03A	Not alert - assault

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