



## Reducing Family Violence : Public Health Approaches

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## Draft findings from two rapid evidence reviews

- 1) The relationship between family violence and youth offending
  - 2) Public health approaches to reducing violence
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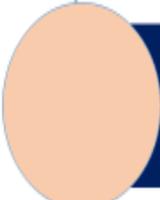
# Demand, public health and violence

- 4% increase in referrals in 16-17
  - Section 47 increasing (108%), as well as child protection plans (73%) and care proceedings (21%).
  - Increasing number of referrals that following assessment do not result in social care follow up is high (27.5%) and increasing. Why?
  - The latter trend can only work if early help is available.
  - Deprivation and child protection activity is linked.
  - Budgets, workforce and increasing poverty are constraints.
  - System wide solutions - push and pull factors, social determinants need a central stage if we are to reduce the constraints.
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# Demand, public health and violence

- Domestic abuse is the most commonly cited factor when children are assessed by children's social care services to determine whether they need support.
- In 2015-16, there were around 222,000 episodes where domestic violence was cited as a factor. **This translates into around 28 new episodes every week in every local authority in the country.**
- It is a huge demand pressure on children's services and is one of the reasons for the increase in recent years in statutory activities.
- **Casework although effective can only focus on part of the issue.**
- **Gaps in services are well understood yet remain static**
- Many young people in trouble with youth justice or LAC have long histories of trauma and violence within family setting.

# Key Review Questions

-  What evidence exists to support a link between family violence and involvement in youth offending?
-  If a link does exist, are there factors that moderate the relationship between family violence and subsequent involvement in youth offending?
-  What public health interventions are available to prevent offending among children and young people who have experienced family violence?

# Key Review Questions

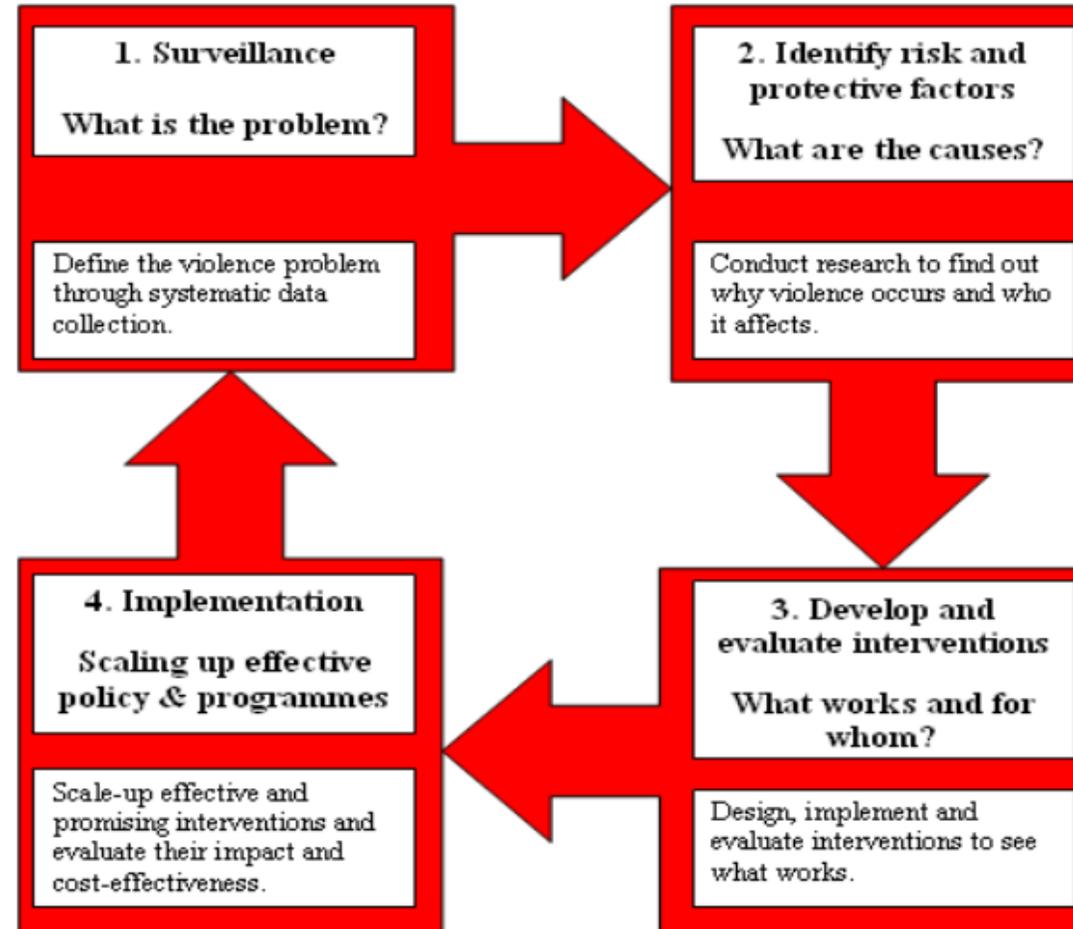
- What is a public health approach to reducing violence?
- What does a public health approach tell us about violence?
- Which public health interventions are promising in reducing violence?

# Why Public Health : WHO 2017

*Seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence. By definition, **public health aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people.***

*Programmes for primary prevention of violence based on the public health approach are designed to expose a broad segment of a population to prevention measures and to reduce and prevent violence at a population-level.”*

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## Family violence and youth offending: findings

The review finds an emerging body of robust evidence for a link between experiences of family violence and subsequent participation in youth offending. This includes experiencing:

- Sibling violence
  - Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
  - Childhood physical abuse
  - Child to parent violence
  - Witnessing domestic violence
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## What is worth looking at

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Based Mentoring Programme
- Family Functioning therapy
- Adverse Childhood Experiences work –  
'potentially traumatic events that can have negative lasting effects on health and well-being.'

*Family and early experiences matters as well as location and context and influence of peers*

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# Family Violence and Public Health

The literature is clear about what a public health approach is. It is less clear concerning what constitutes a public health intervention.

Public health approaches to data gathering and sharing have shown positive results for reducing violence.

There is no silver bullet.....but there are some choices

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## Gaps and examples of interventions

- Examples of interventions that met level 3 or above on the EIF standards of evidence scale include:
    - Family Nurse Partnership
    - Triple P
    - Incredible Years Preschool
    - Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)
    - Multi-Systemic Therapy
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# Worth Looking At .....

## Cardiff Model

- Gather data in A and E,
- Combine with intelligence
- Share with a wide other
- Use to inform prevention strategies.
- Agile and coordination

*Evaluations are positive.*

*Reduces violence at a pop level – admissions fell.*

## Glasgow- Scotland VRU

- 2005 Police led initiative
- Public health approach involving health, education and social work
- Mix of targeting, using justice, restorative approach and real life changing alternatives were offered

*Knife deaths and handling offensive weapons have decreased, whilst in England and Wales have risen*

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# Some considerations

A public health approach to reducing violence is an important approach which could improve outcomes for populations and provide value for money. To utilise approaches effectively, it is important to:

- **Define the issue that you want to address in terms of reducing violence, e.g. robust needs assessment, etc.**
  - **Data alignment critical to get accurate prevalence and analysis.**
  - Understand the causes of violence – what are the risk / protective factors in the population?
  - Commission and fund evidence-based public health interventions that have been shown to reduce violence
  - Implement interventions ensuring that model fidelity is maintained
  - **If no off the shelf interventions are available, take an evidence based approach to designing innovative new programmes**
  - Allow time for interventions to embed in practice and achieve outcomes
  - Monitor and evaluate the success of interventions, to ensure value for the tax-payer
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## Next Steps

- We are testing the findings with stakeholders.
- We will refine the findings and reports for LGA publication.
- We will work with LAs and Govt. on design of next phase.