

# Leicester Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy

2021-2023

July 2021



# Working for the community, led by the community

Our approach to tackling knife crime  
and serious violence in Leicester.

## Contents

Foreword	3
1.0 Our vision and commitment	4
2.0 Introduction	5
2.1. What does the data tell us?	6
2.1.1 National statistics	6
2.1.2 Local statistics (Leicester)	8
2.2. What did the community tell us?	16
2.3. Community testimonials	17
3.0 A community led approach to tackling knife crime and serious violence in Leicester: Understanding the issues	19
3.1. The journey with our community	20
3.2. Conversations with community, experts, and others	20
3.3. Understanding the issue	22
4.0 Bringing it all together to make positive change happen	23
5.0 Next steps and monitoring progress	26
6.0 Appendix A – Caveats	27

# Foreword



**Cllr Kirk Master,**  
Assistant City Mayor for Neighbourhoods,  
Leicester City Council

After an evident trend in national and local statical data that shows knife crime and serious violence was on the rise, it was necessary to take proactive action in the city with the implementation of Leicester's first Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy. Knife crime affects our communities and families, devastating lives and leaving a lasting impact. Tragically there are families in the city that have lost loved ones and many more have seen their loved ones injured and affected. This is totally unacceptable and more needs to be done to address not only the root causes of knife crime and serious violence, but also to ensure that those who do use knives to commit crime are supported away from this behaviour.

This strategy was a manifesto commitment and has been commissioned by Leicester's City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby. As nominated executive lead for this important piece of work I am very clear that the solutions rest not only with the council but must come from our local communities. Their voices needed to be heard and reflected in the actions and recommendations developed through this work.

The approach we used to develop the strategy had a unique and sole focus of being led and designed by communities. Established community leads and groups, both well known for representing their community

and voicing any associated concerns, led the engagement from the front, with several group sessions held to gather ideas and views from the community.

In addition to working with the community, which included those with lived experiences, we also involved a wide range of partner agencies to understand the causes of serious violence and the use of knives. This joined-up, coordinated approach has been used to confront knife crime and serious violence as well as to ensure there is early intervention, prevention, and provision of services. We will be asking those delivering the action plan to demonstrate the positive process changes that have occurred as a result of the strategy, and to monitor and evaluate the success of the action plan going forward.

This is an important strategy for the city and its communities. I am hugely grateful to everyone who has taken part in its development, and I look forward to working together with all those who share our ambition to deliver the strategy as we strive to address the problems of knife crime and serious violence within our streets and society.

# 1.0 Our vision and commitment to addressing knife crime and serious violence

## Our vision

Our vision is to strive to help prevent and deter individuals and groups from committing acts of serious violence and carrying/using knives.

## Our commitment

Leicester City Council will work with partners to establish and deliver the city-wide Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy.

## 2.0 Introduction

Wherever you are in the country, serious violence and knife crime are issues affecting many communities, families, and individuals. The use of knives to gain power, control, money, and belongings cannot be accepted.

**Knife crime is a devastating blight on today's society.**

Leicester City Council is the lead agency for the city's community safety partnership, the Safer Leicester Partnership (SLP). As such, the council has prioritised actions with partners to address knife crime and serious violence. This is reflected in the SLP's community safety plan, but it is also, importantly, a commitment made by the council under the leadership of the City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby. This area of the council's work is being led by Cllr Kirk Master who has executive responsibility for this strategy across the city.

Leicester City Council is also a core member of the local Violence Reduction Network (VRN) which has been established to take an evidence-informed, whole system approach to preventing serious violence. Established in September 2019 and funded through a Home Office grant, the VRN is an alliance of organisations, groups and communities that has the core function of providing joint leadership and co-ordination of the local response to serious violence.

The VRN sits within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and is governed by the Violence Reduction Board. The Violence Reduction Board provides strategic leadership and coordination, holds accountability for the VRN team and Serious Violence Delivery Group, and is included within the Strategic Partnership Board infrastructure. This strategy complements the work of the VRN by ensuring there is specific focus on the issue of knife crime in our city. Both the city council and VRN will continue to work together to drive areas of joint interest forward with partner organisations and communities. There is also a Serious Violence Delivery Group comprising of managers from across the partnership, including Leicester City Council, which undertakes joint work on behalf of the board. The work of the VRN will also be reported as appropriate into the Safer Leicester Partnership and alongside the Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy to ensure maximum Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) collaboration, whilst offsetting risks associated with duplication.

Under the City Mayor and Cllr Master's leadership the city's Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy has been developed through an innovative community led approach. Looking at the data (the incidents and locations of knife crime and serious violence in the city) and hearing the voices of our community has helped to direct us towards recommendations that will assist in finding solutions to these important issues.

## 2.1. What does the data tell us?

### 2.1.1 National statistics

National figures for the year ending March 2020 showed a 6% rise in offences involving knives or sharp instruments recorded by the police, rising to 46,265. Offences involving knives or sharp instruments have been experiencing a rising trend since the year ending March 2014, although in recent years the rate of increase has slowed. However, the latest year was 51% higher than when comparable recording began in 2011 and is the highest on record. (ONS, 2020) (Please note: the definition used within this report is different to the national figures shown in this section)

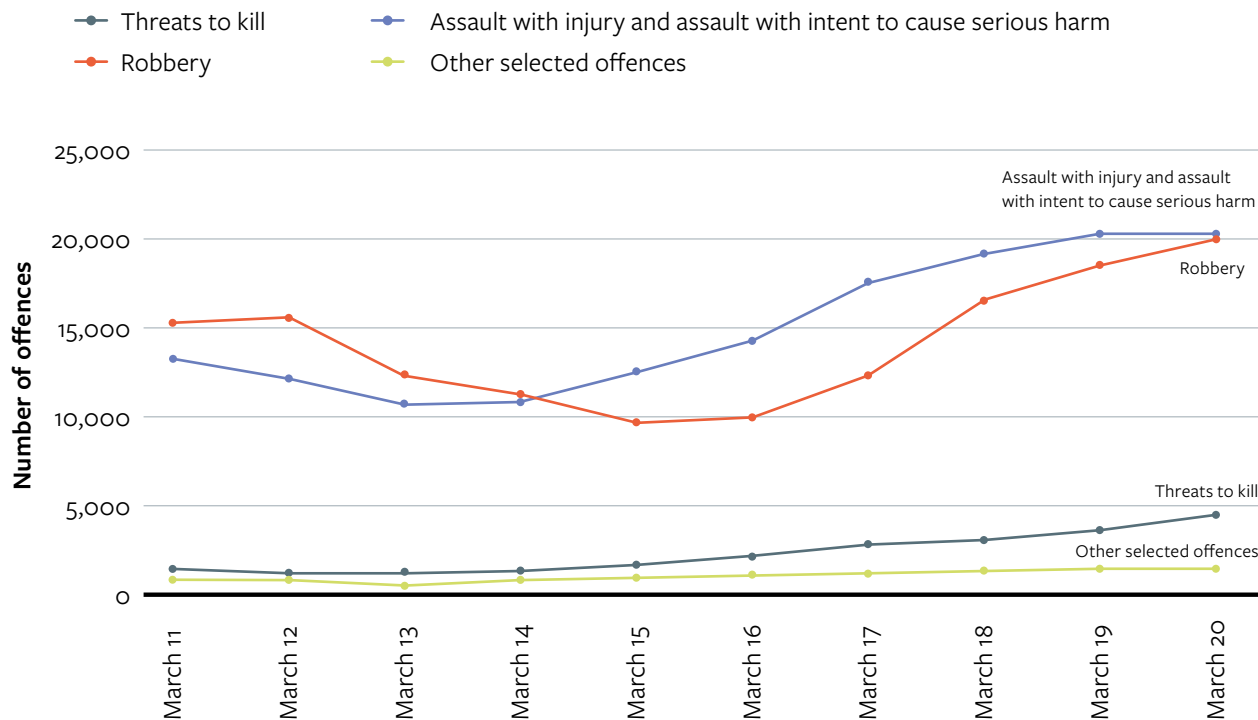


Figure 1: Rising trend in crimes involving knives or sharp instruments, driven by increases in assaults with injury, assaults with intent to cause serious harm and robberies (Source: Office for National Statistics, England and Wales, Year ending March 2020)

The serious violence definition used for the purpose of the rest of this section is that adopted by the Violence Reduction Network partnership:

‘Public place violence resulting in significant physical injury with or without weapons’

The definition includes all ages and the following crime groupings:

- Homicide
- Violence with injury
- Robbery of personal property
- Robbery of business property

The focus of the Violence Reduction Network and Leicester’s Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy is on public place serious violence, and the data in this section refers to this. It does not include sexual violence or serious violence in domestic settings, including domestic abuse, as there are other strategies in place to tackle these.

**Violence Reduction Network’s knife-enabled serious violence definition**

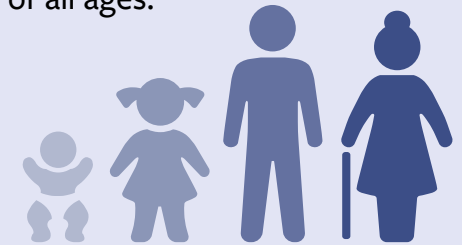
Knife-enabled serious violence is defined by offences which fall under the definition which mention knife, as well as mentions of stab, sharp, blunt, blade, etc. The offences are reported as involving a knife or sharp instrument when the weapon is present during the offence or the threat is believed to be real. The weapon does not necessarily have to be used. Offences of “possession of an article with a blade or point” are not included within this category.

# Violence Reduction Network Serious Violence Definition

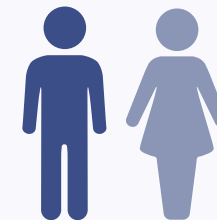


**Public place violence resulting in significant physical injury with or without weapons**

with the inclusion of all ages.



**Crime groups:**



**Initial priority focus:**

Serious violence by or against a person under 25 years.

Exclusion of sexual violence and/or serious violence in domestic settings, including domestic abuse.



**Home Office Counting Rules Crime Types:**

- Murder | Manslaughter | Attempt Murder
- Assault with Intent to Cause Serious Harm | Endangering Life
- Assault with Injury | Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault with Injury
- Robbery of Business Property | Robbery of Personal Property



## 2.1.2 Local statistics (Leicester)

### All serious violence offences

The following information is based on data from Leicestershire Police. It is important to note that National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) has influenced local delivery in relation to the management of crime data integrity. In response to NCRS, Leicestershire Police have designed and implemented a number of improved practices which has, as anticipated, seen a rise in recorded crimes including those linked to low level and non-injury violent crime offences. The caveats outlined in Appendix A should also be noted.

In the 2019/20 financial year, 57.5% of serious violence across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland involving all ages occurred in Leicester.

Figure 2 shows the volume of serious violence offences in public places across Leicester over the last three financial years with a peak in Q3 2019/20. When comparing 2018/19 with 2019/20 there was a 0.8% decrease in the volume of serious violence offences in Leicester.

### Volume of Serious Violence Offences (Leicester)

(Q1 2017/18 - Q4 2019/20)

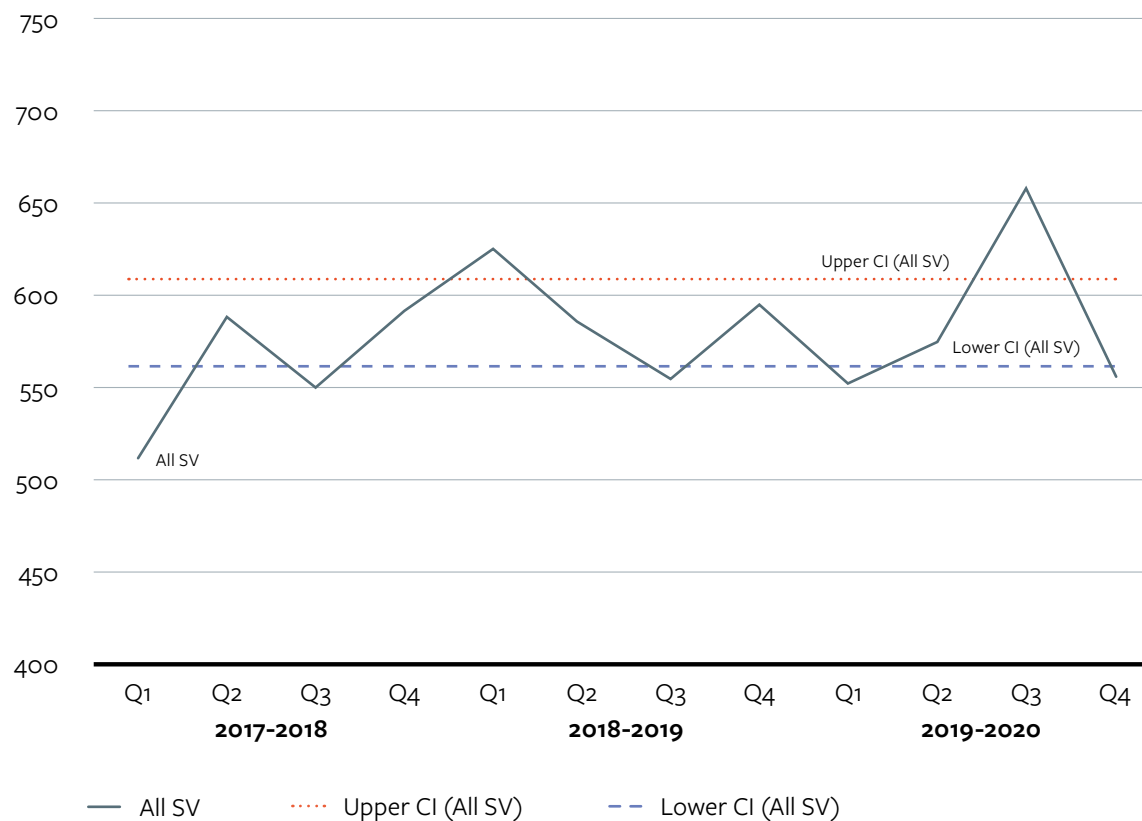


Figure 2: Quarterly volume of serious violence offences in public places across Leicester (Q1 2017/18 – Q4 2019/20) (Source: Leicestershire Police)



### Knife-enabled serious violence offences

In the 2019/20 financial year, 72.8% of serious violence across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland involving all ages occurred in Leicester. The chart below shows the volume of knife-enabled serious violence offences in public places across Leicester over the last three financial years. When comparing 2018/19 with 2019/20 a decrease of 10.7% was observed.

Looking at the offence breakdown within knife-enabled serious violence, ‘Robbery of personal property’ offences make up 44.6% of all knife-enabled serious violence – the trends seen for this offence type have fluctuated but remained relatively stable over this period. When looking at the total volume of serious violence offences as shown above, 15.6% of all serious violence in Leicester in 2019/20 was knife-enabled. It should also be highlighted that 14.4% of public place knife-enabled serious violence in Leicester has been flagged as involving alcohol.

### Volume of Knife-enabled Serious Violence (Leicester)

(Q1 2017/18 - Q4 2019/20)

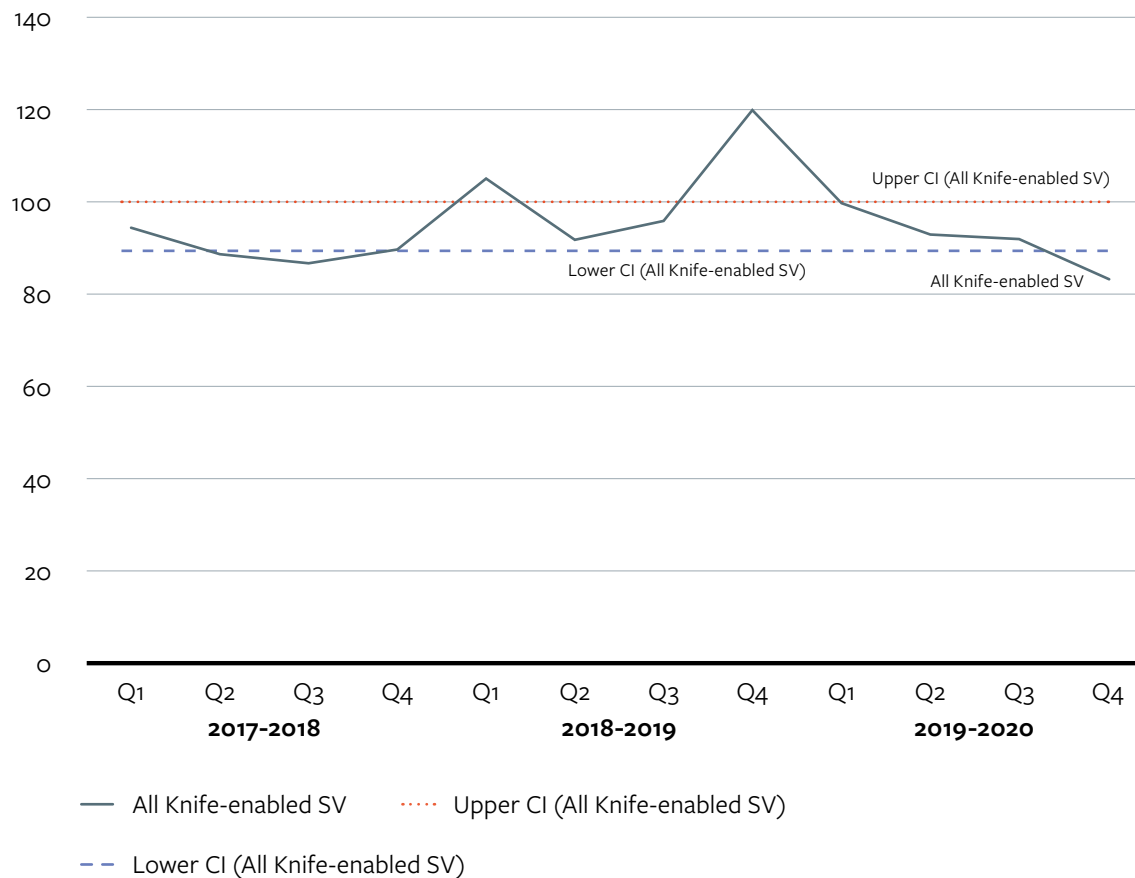


Figure 3: Quarterly volume of knife-enabled serious violence offences in public places across Leicester (Q1 2017/18 – Q4 2019/20) (Source: Leicestershire Police)

## Person demographics

### Gender

#### All serious violence

Figure 4 and Figure 5 show the gender of victims and suspects/offenders for public place serious violence offences committed in Leicester in the 2019/20 financial year. The data shows that males are most likely to be a victim or suspect/offender of a serious violence offence, with the proportions being 75% and 78% respectively.

### Serious Violence Victims

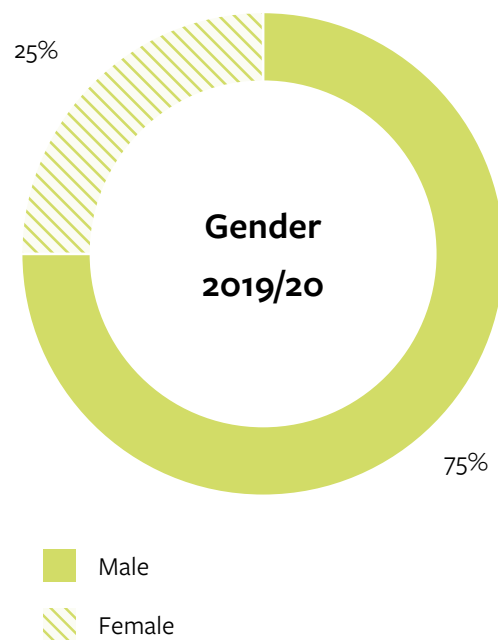


Figure 4: Gender of serious violence victims (Apr 19- Mar 20)  
(Source: Leicestershire Police)

### Serious Violence Suspects/Offenders

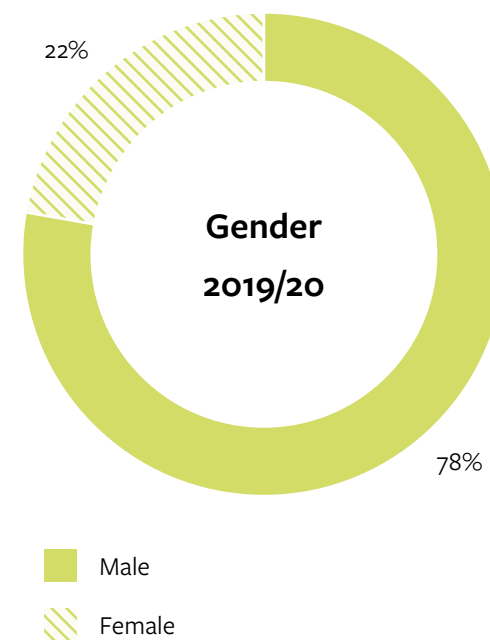


Figure 5: Gender of serious violence suspects/offenders (Apr 19- Mar 20)  
(Source: Leicestershire Police)

## Person demographics

### Gender

#### Knife-enabled serious violence

Figure 6 and Figure 7 show the gender of victims and suspects/offenders for public place knife-enabled serious violence offences committed in Leicester in the 2019/20 financial year. The data shows that males are most likely to be a victim or suspect/offender of a knife-enabled serious violence offence with the proportions being 93% and 92% respectively.

Looking at the data above, it shows there is a higher risk of a male being involved in a knife-enabled serious violence offence compared to all serious violence offences.

### Knife Enabled Serious Violence

#### Victims

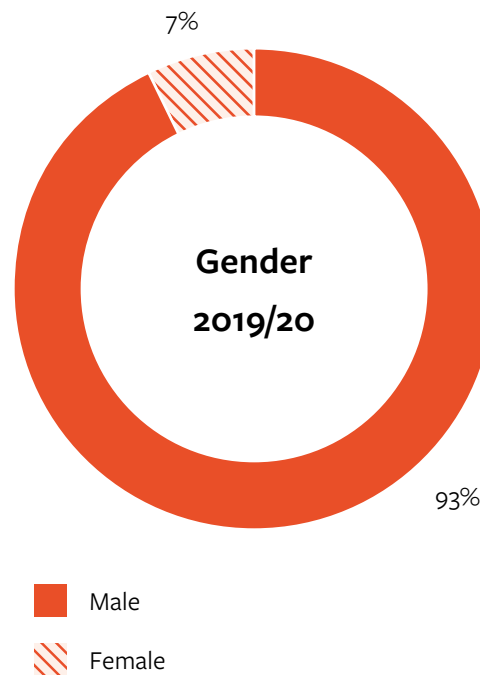


Figure 6 : Gender of knife-enabled serious violence victims (Apr 19 - Mar 20)  
(Source: Leicestershire Police)

### Knife Enabled Serious Violence

#### Suspects/Offenders

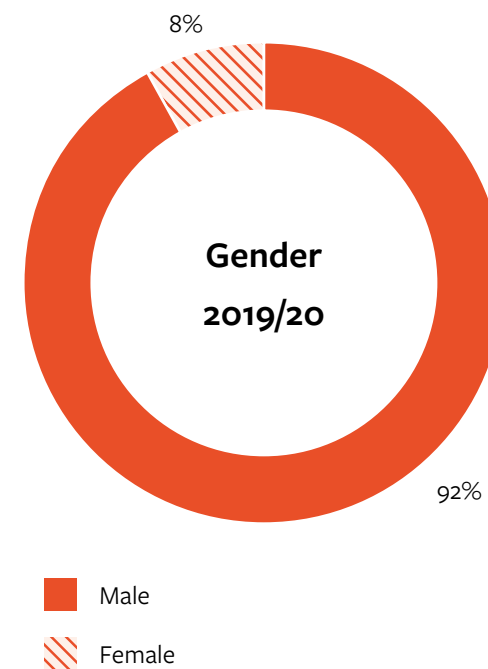


Figure 7: Gender of knife-enabled serious violence suspects/offenders (Apr 19 - Mar 20)  
(Source: Leicestershire Police)

## Age profile

### Victims

Figure 8 shows the volume of victims of serious violence and knife-enabled serious violence in Leicester by age group in the 2019/20 financial year. It can be seen that both victim cohorts are skewed towards the under 25 range and have a peak in the 15-19 age group, making up 19.0% of all serious violence victims and 28.2% of knife-enabled serious violence victims. (Please note: volumes less than 5 have been removed)

**Victim Age**  
(2019/20)

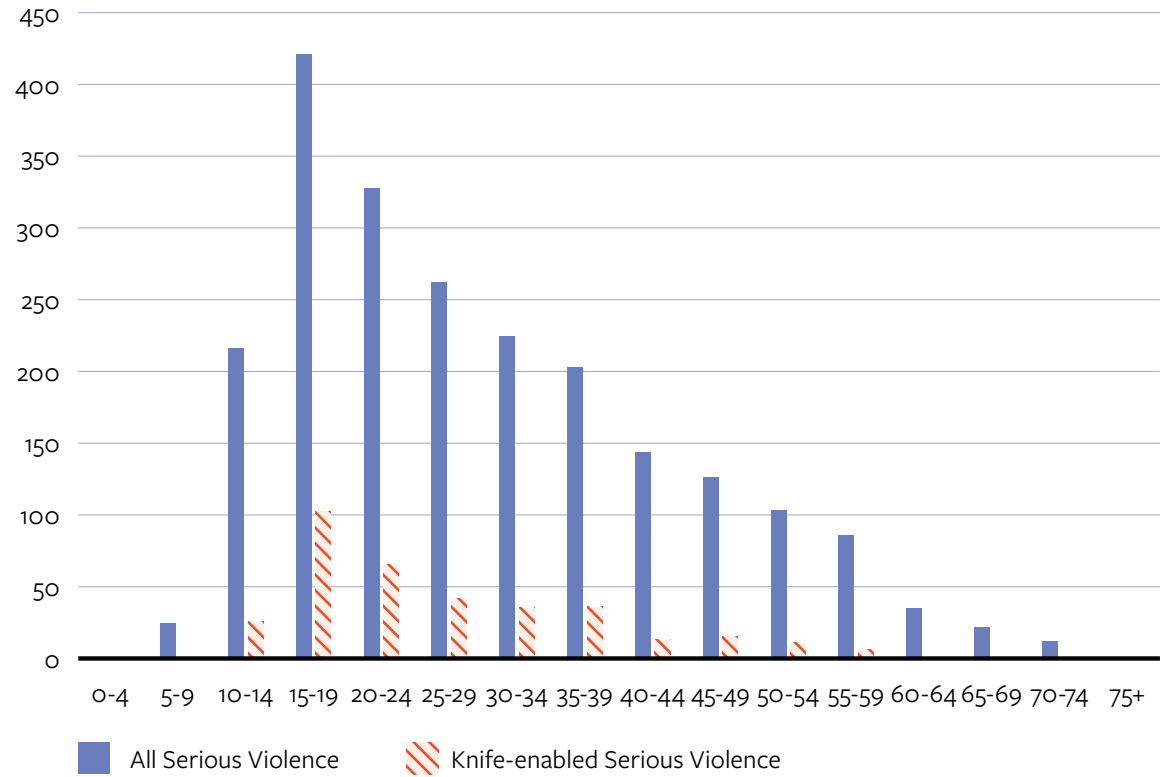


Figure 8 : Volume of victims of serious violence and knife-enabled serious violence in Leicester by age group (Apr 19 - Mar 20) (Source: Leicestershire Police)

## Age profile

### Suspects/Offenders

Figure 9 shows the volume of suspects/offenders of serious violence and knife-enabled serious violence in Leicester by age group in the 2019/20 financial year. It can be seen that similarly to the trends seen for victims, both suspect/offender cohorts are skewed towards the under 25 range and have a peak in the 15-19 age group, making up 23.3% of all serious violence suspects/offenders and 35.2% of knife-enabled serious violence suspects/offenders. (Please note: volumes less than 5 have been removed).

### Suspect/Offender Age

(2019/20)

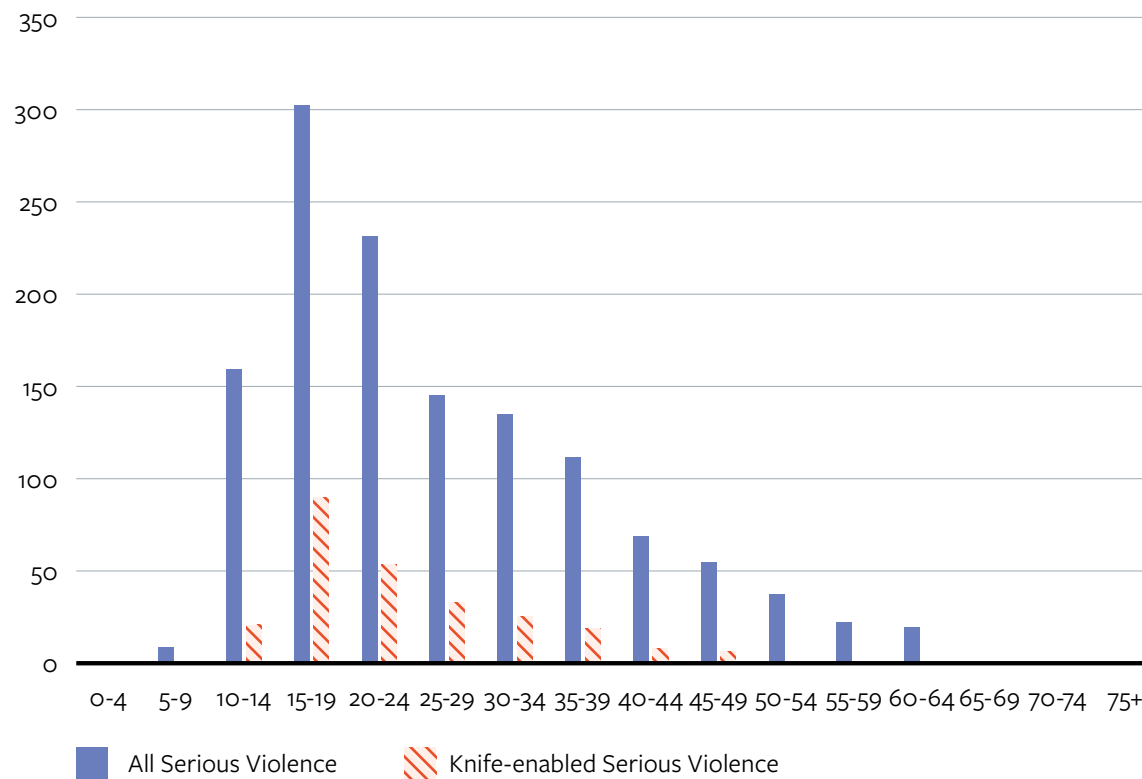
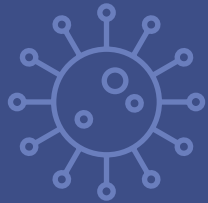


Figure 9: Volume of suspects/offenders of serious violence and knife-enabled serious violence in Leicester by age group (Apr 19 - Mar 20) (Source: Leicestershire Police)



## Impact of COVID-19



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, national lockdown restrictions were put into place on 23 March 2020 and caused a change in the nature and geography of serious violence, which was typically observed across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

Focussing on Leicester, a sharp decrease was seen in the volume of serious violence and knife-enabled serious violence offences for the month of April 2020 following the implementation of a lockdown. However, despite the decreases observed, public place serious violence was still occurring in the city in the tightest of lockdown restrictions.

As restrictions eased, the volume of serious violence for both cohorts increased as expected, particularly for the all-ages cohort where the volumes in August and September 20 rose to levels observed in peak months prior to COVID. Following this, peak levels remained relatively stable until decreases were observed from November 20 through to February 21, with increases beginning to be observed from March 21. Similar trends were observed for knife-enabled serious violence, however following a peak in September and a decrease in December, volumes of offences have been increasing on a monthly basis. However, they have not yet reached peak levels. A change in the geography of serious violence has also been observed. The central Leicester (NC) neighbourhood policing area (NPA) typically observes the highest frequency of offences, however over the last year the volumes of serious violence in East Leicester (NE) and West Leicester (NW) exceed the volume recorded in NC, indicating that during the lockdown restrictions public place serious violence has moved from the city centre to the surrounding areas.

## Healthcare data

### Hospital episode statistics

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database counts of first finished admission episodes in patients with a recording of violent crime diagnosis codes (excluding sexual assault codes) were acquired for those residing in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland under 25 years of age. A first finished admission episode is the first episode in a 'spell' of care; a 'spell' is used to describe a stay in hospital from admission to discharge and can be made up of one or more episodes.

Figure 10 shows the overall rates of hospital admissions due to violent assaults in those aged under 25 in Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland and in the areas combined. The corresponding England rate of 0.48 admissions for violence (0.48 per 1,000 population aged 0-24 years) is also shown for comparison. It can be seen that the admission rate for violence in Leicester (0.51 admissions per 1,000 population aged 0-24 years) is the highest and performs statistically similarly to the national average.

Rate of violence-related hospital admissions for LLR local authorities 2016/17 to 2018/29

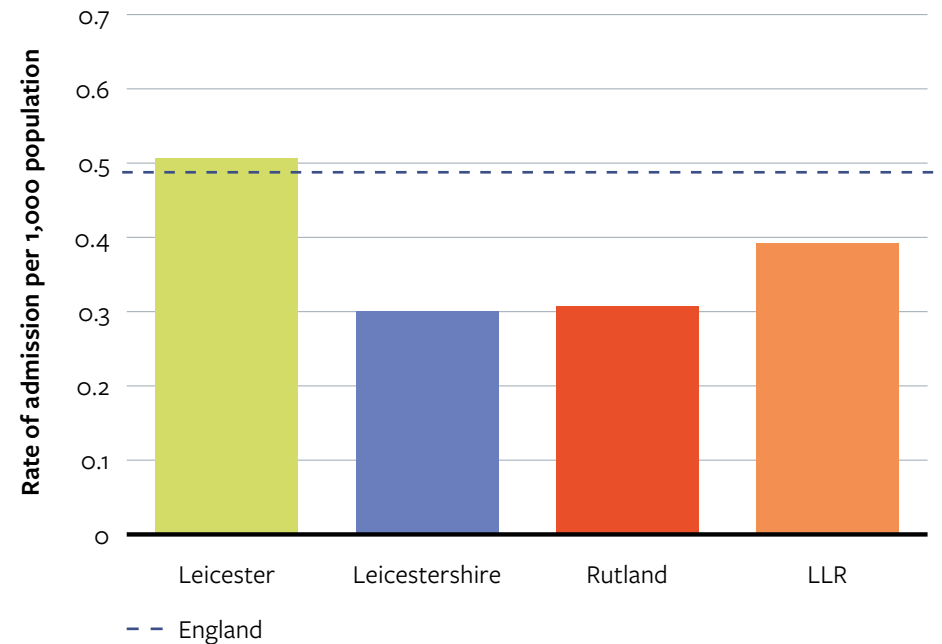


Figure 10: Rate of violence-related hospital admissions for LLR local authorities 2016/17 to 2018/29 (Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, ONS 2019)

Following further analysis for Leicester, the age group with the highest rate is 15-19-year-olds and is statistically similar to the rates seen for England, but a higher rate compared to LLR. Leicester also has the highest hospital admission rate for violence for males under 25 compared to the other local authorities, however the rate is similar to the value for England.

## 2.2. What did the community tell us?

Knife crime and serious violence destroys lives and devastates families. During our community conversations the following was shared with us:

**“I’ve lost more than 10 people in 5 years”**

**“My closest friends always carry knives – it doesn’t faze me anymore”**

“My next-door neighbours son died of a knife crime. This affected me deeply because I watched that boy grow up in front of me, **he was like a son**”

**“Lost a family member to knife crime”**

**“I worry more now about my teenager’s safety than I ever did when he was little”**

“Now I carry a knife for my own protection. **Everyone carries one, it isn’t a big deal**, I am not going to stab anyone”

**“there is not enough engaging activity for young people to steer them away from gang culture”**

“young people that commit this type of violence **feel they have no support and that no one is helping them**”

“if young people felt more supported, it would deter them from making bad decisions. It is necessary for authority figures to show young people that making **the right moral decision will lead to a more rewarding life**”

“financial hardship, drug and alcohol abuse. As well as young people feeling pressure to feel part of a group. **Tackling these issues would lower youth crime** and encourage young people to create better life choice’s”



## 2.3. Community testimonials

Provided by some of the individuals who were engaged in the development of the strategy.

### Cheryl's story

I have been involved in community work for over thirty years. My professional role was in welfare to work as an employment coach.

My first role in working in Leicester carrying out a community project was 2004 campaigning against street crime and creating opportunities for young people using the arts.

But when my son was murdered in 2013 I took over his business, continuing his work with children and young people delivering intervention and prevention workshops.

I had the opportunity to then join the Violence Reduction Network along with becoming a member of the panel, which is led by former Deputy Police Commissioner Kirk Master.

Joining these groups has helped to empower me, giving outstanding support to my organisation. I find meeting with members from other community groups beneficial sharing ideas, solutions and good practice.

Sharing my personal experiences as a victim enables me to help others understand the impact of crime, whilst playing a therapeutic part in the healing of the community.

### Aaron's story

My name is Aaron. During my period at secondary school, I went through a rebellious stage of my life, where I wanted to run a school gang. I left secondary school with no qualifications and was told by teachers that I would never get far and just end up working in a supermarket as a shelf-stacker.

When I went to college, I eventually got a BTEC level 3 in media and my results ended up being top 10 in the country. I also passed my GCSEs and now I'm going to university. I've got my youth worker's certificate and working to get my FA level 1 coaching badge. I've also got a DBS check and I have done a safeguarding course as well.

The reason why I want to change things in my community is because I know how it feels to be written off and told you ain't gonna go nowhere with nothing to my name. I use my experience to tell the next generation: don't let people write you off. You can achieve your full potential because I know what it's like to feel like nothing. I also want the kids to feel that there are people here in the community to show them love and help them grow.



## Dinehas' story

I am Dinehas. At the age of 15, my friends influenced me to start shop lifting in town. After one attempt, it became a daily occurrence. As I got older, I started hanging around drug dealers and armed robbers. At the time I wanted what they had - the cars, money and the women. Eventually I got caught in armed robbery and spent most of my 20s inside prison.

I look at it now and realise that I was groomed by elders and they only showed me love, false hope and belonging that I never felt at home, so that I would do their dirty work for them and face the consequences.

I use my experience from what I have witnessed and done to help teach the next generation what it's about. I've been there and wore the t-shirt.

To move forward, I feel that we should listen to people's stories before judging them on their past. Recently in 2019, I was working as a delivery driver, but I was released from that job because of my past on a piece of paper. People don't realise that I've changed and won't give me a chance. People in the area always come to me because they realise I listen to them and give them a chance to realise that they can change from bad to good. Even though I've changed and I'm not the same person anymore, my past still haunts me and affects if I was to apply for a job.

## Martin's story

My name is Martin and I have a passion for community development. I am determined to make a difference in the communities where I live and work. My specialisms are in education, change management and project management.

There is a growing problem of serious violence in our communities that is particularly relevant for young people, specifically young men who are more likely to be perpetrators or victims than any other demographic group. We have a serious problem in Beaumont Leys, there is under-reporting of violent crime and a reluctance to engage with uniform services. However, we have anecdotal evidence that we are losing the battle on the streets with our young people and the problem is getting worse.

I am involved in this work because I want to make difference; last year my organisation worked with a young boy aged 8 years old who was hiding knives across the Beaumont Leys estate, since then we have had a number of new referrals of habitual knife carriers, one of them being only 9 years old.

Furthermore, I have been a victim of knife crime, just before Christmas 2019 I was assaulted when a 15-year-old boy threatened to stab me.



## 3.0 A community led approach to tackling knife crime and serious violence in Leicester: Understanding the issues

We are clear that we need a community-led approach to understand the causes of serious violence and the use of knives. That said, we need a joined-up, coordinated approach, working in collaboration with the Violence Reduction Network, partner agencies and voluntary groups to confront knife crime and serious violence and to ensure that we commit to early intervention, prevention and provision of services.

## 3.1. The journey with our community

To support the development of the strategy, a wide variety of community sessions and meetings have taken place to gather the views, knowledge and expertise of strategic partners, community members, young people, and various organisations. The involvement of individuals with vast experience and insight into this area of work has been essential in shaping and implementing the strategy going forward.









## 3.2. Conversations with community, experts, and others

With the use of police data and analysis, we were able to identify the top eight locations across Leicester that recorded the greatest number of knife crime offences in 2018 and 2019. This data informed the chosen areas in which community conversations were carried out.

### **Community leaders started the conversations, asking questions such as:**

- What and where knife crime issues exist within the local area and community?
- Why people carry knives and become involved in knife crime and other serious violence?
- How knife crime has impacted on and affected local communities?
- How communities, organisations and services can help to reduce knife crime and serious violence?

### **The identified areas for community conversations were:**

-  Belgrave
-  Braunstone
-  Beaumont Leys
-  New Parks
-  Saffron/Eyres Monsell
-  Highfields
-  St. Matthews
-  City centre

Conversations were also had with:

- ✓ Regular steering group meetings
- ✓ Regular taskforce group meeting
- ✓ Joint Steering & Taskforce group meeting
- ✓ Designated Safeguarding Leads Forum (Presentation about the development of a Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy)
- ✓ Meeting with De Montfort University students/volunteers (recognising support for community conversations)
- ✓ Victim First - Violence Reduction Network commissioned research
- ✓ Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission, Leicester City Council
- ✓ Meeting with elected members
- ✓ Meeting with Young People's Council
- ✓ Meeting with University of Leicester and De Montfort University criminology academics
- ✓ Session with families and parents of victims
- ✓ Remaining community conversations (via online platforms)
- ✓ Meeting with those who have 'lived experience'
- ✓ Session with gang experts (nationally)
- ✓ Online survey with De Montfort University criminology students
- ✓ Discussions with executive leads and Leicester City Council directors

## 3.3. Understanding the issue

The issues identified by this work include the **lack of community provision, support provision and role models/mentors**. Other popular issues that were identified are related to **peer pressure, culture, fear, finances, and issues associated with other crimes (mainly related to drugs and alcohol)**.

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Respondents felt that **people carry knives and become involved in knife crime** and other serious violence out of **fear, cultural related issues, peer pressure, protection, results of other crimes (drugs/alcohol), financial difficulties and lack of discipline**.

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Respondents were asked to share **their experiences and explain the impacts of knife crime** and serious violence within their community; respondents said the impact manifested itself in different ways such as **mental health problems, family disputes, negative perception/ fear of the area and de-sensitised the view of knife crime for some**.

Some respondents identified that **the media (such as social media/games) was a contributing factor to knife crime**.

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We asked respondents to explain **how communities and organisations could help to reduce serious knife crime** and other serious violence. The responses that were received included the **need to improve the provision of various support services** and in particular **youth service**. It was recognised that there is a **need to involve the family and increase the provision of family support and create role models/mentors within the communities**.

Respondents also felt that **communities and organisations could provide time in the form of volunteering** and identified the need to **improve community facilities and increase community hubs**. It was recognised that **more education and information** is required (including a presence on social media), and there is a need to improve collaborative working between services. Finally, respondents felt that communities and organisations could **increase opportunities related to funding and employment**.

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Respondents identified that the strengths of the local community involvement in addressing these issues **will be of benefit to the whole community on an on-going, sustained basis**, it was recognised that the community are knowledgeable about the issues within their local area.

## 4.0 Bringing it all together to make positive change happen

Given the extensive amount of work and investment from communities, a number of recommendations were established and have been grouped into five core concepts that capture the range of activities, interventions, and strategic policy directives.

Throughout the development of the strategy, a range of issues together with recommendations have been identified. They have been adopted as the commitments that are provided below. This information has been used to produce a detailed action plan which requires ongoing input from a range of partners and agencies. As this work progresses, the issues of knife crime and other serious violence will need to be addressed through solid and sustained partnership work that can be delivered in an organic environment.



### **a) Providing support and opportunities**

We will work to ensure that young people feel supported and motivated through the provision of varied education and training. We will also help to support employment opportunities (where they exist) that are inclusive and empowering. We will identify alternative education provision, seek to reduce school exclusions, create links with local arts and culture groups, and improve signposting to diversionary activities that promote aspirational futures and encourage financial stability.



### **b) Preventing crime and ensuring people feel safe and protected**

It is a priority to ensure that young and vulnerable people feel safe within their community and can actively seek appropriate, effective, and bespoke support services. This strategy will raise awareness of the various support and intervention services that are available to those in need, in particular for individuals who have been identified as being at risk of offending or re-offending, or those who may be vulnerable to criminal exploitation (such as county lines). The safety and wellbeing of young and vulnerable people is paramount, and our focus will seek to ensure that contextual safeguarding is integrated within the strategy, and trauma-informed practices are adopted to support individuals with adverse childhood experiences (ACE). We recognise the need for workstreams to be aligned and connected to looked after children, missing persons, children in need and public health/mental health plans and campaigns. We will develop targeted community engagement programmes that will include detached youth work and street-based sessions with an aim to encourage people away from crime, alongside a new innovative community-led project with partners to work directly with young people most at risk, either as perpetrators or victims.



### **c) Involving the community**

We will ensure that the approach used to prevent knife crime and serious violence is significantly led and informed by the community and those with lived experience. We will continue to listen to and support our community as part of our efforts to increase community resilience and by identifying opportunities for sustainable community-led solutions. We will develop a platform for active community leads to network and share their expertise, and we will work closely with voluntary community sector groups to determine the appropriate mechanisms of delivery for various intervention programmes. We will empower community leads, front-line workers, residents and volunteers to feel more confident and equipped to deliver community-led solutions by providing training opportunities, seeking to identify sustainable funding streams, and by supporting safe spaces where advice and guidance is offered.





#### **d) Collaborative working with partners across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland**

We will continue to build upon current relationships and multi-agency networks with strategic partners, organisations, and communities to ensure a collaborative and coordinated approach to the prevention of knife crime and serious violence within Leicester. These will include the Violence Reduction Network, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and other partners across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland. This joined-up approach will encourage effective sharing of knowledge, information, and best practice around this agenda. Collaborative working with partners ensures that there is a provision of mutual support that maximises the use of collective resources and financial contributions. This will enable organisations to confront knife crime and serious violence together through early intervention, prevention, and provision of appropriately designed services. By working together and taking a public health approach, we can share data and intelligence to

understand and address the root causes of serious violence, including knife crime. This will include a new multi-agency process for professionals to review incidents of serious violence and knife crime that have sadly resulted in serious injury or death.

The Government intends to legislate a new Serious Violence Duty (via Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, 2021). The duty will be placed on several sectors which include local authorities, police, youth offending teams, fire and rescue, probation, and health authorities; the duty will fall to organisations rather than to individuals. The proposed Serious Violence Duty will put a new duty on public sector bodies to collaborate and plan (where possible through existing partnership structures) to prevent and reduce serious violence. It will also allow services to target their interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether.



#### **e) Enhancing the feeling of safety in outdoor spaces and developing community resilience**

We will seek to further enhance the feeling of safety within and around outdoor public spaces by improving the physical infrastructure of our local environment and preventing the development of problematic areas. We want to increase the feeling of safety within our neighbourhoods and promote a greater sense of community by increasing networks and cohesion between groups and residents. We will enforce effective use of Public Space Prevention Orders within Leicester and we will have a targeted approach to the misuse of illegal drugs in our city. We understand the need to challenge negative stigmas within communities, whilst also celebrating and utilising community assets. We aim to develop a 'People Zone' in Highfields; a People Zone is a partnership between local organisations and communities who work together to design specific objectives to improve their neighbourhood and quality of life. We will also commit to offering greater and affordable access to council and school community facilities across Leicester.

## 5.0 Next steps and monitoring progress

Governance and performance management arrangements for the strategy will be through the city's community safety partnership, the Safer Leicester Partnership (SLP), which has its own framework and structure. This partnership is made up of agencies including the council, the police, emergency services and the NHS. The strategy itself will be fully incorporated into the city wide SLP broader strategic plan. It is proposed that the strategic group that has been established for the development of the Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy will become the strategy delivery group, chaired by the assistant city mayor for neighbourhoods, Cllr Kirk Master.

Leicester's Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy is a two-year document that will be reported on annually to the SLP. Reporting on delivery will take place into the SLP, City Mayor briefings and the council's executive as required, with scrutiny provided through the neighbourhood services scrutiny commission. The work of the VRN will also be reported as appropriate into the SLP and alongside the Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy to ensure maximum collaboration between Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland on this agenda, thereby also offsetting risks associated with duplication.

Delivery of the strategy actions/adopted recommendations will be monitored by the SLP. The work will continue to be driven by Leicester City Council with input as appropriate from partners, and with the generous support of the city's Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy Taskforce group.

There is a need to determine and demonstrate the success of each recommendation/commitment, including how processes have been changed and improved as a result of implementing the strategy.

## 6.0 Appendix A – Caveats

Data Source	Explanation and caveats
All data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Police data has been downloaded from live systems and as such is a snapshot at that point in time.</li> <li>Data has been analysed from April 2017 to March 2020 and each chart has specified the time-period which it covers.</li> <li>Where possible 95% confidence intervals have been calculated and displayed in order to report on any significant differences when making comparisons.</li> </ul>
Leicestershire Police data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incidents reported or identified by the police where there is an identified victim and, on the balance of probability, the circumstances as reported amount to a crime defined by law, and there is no credible evidence to the contrary.</li> <li>Police recorded crime are not designated as National Statistics<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>Police recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in police activity (for example, an increase in stop and search may lead to an increase in knife-possession offences).</li> <li>A renewed focus on the quality of crime recording by the police since 2014 is thought to have led to a greater proportion of reported crimes being recorded by the police, which means caution must be taken when interpreting the data.</li> <li>The data analysed and reported in this quarterly report was extracted from Leicestershire Police's NICHE system via Business Objects. It is important to acknowledge that the data stored within NICHE is not static and is subject to change.</li> <li>The quality of the data is reliant on information availability and input to NICHE. Any errors, lack of details or blank data fields will reduce the accuracy of the analysis.</li> <li>When referring to suspected perpetrators, it should be noted that this includes both named suspects which may have remained as suspects and some which have been proven to have committed the offence.</li> <li>Analysis relating to the characteristics of the suspected perpetrator relate only to offences where a suspect has been identified. Therefore, the data presented could be an underrepresentation of the under 25 cohort as well as the over 25s group.</li> <li>A number of fields, including location and alcohol related offences, are not mandatory on NICHE and therefore are not always completed when every offence is recorded. Caution is therefore recommended when interpreting the data, as the accuracy of completion is unknown.</li> </ul>
Healthcare data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital admissions from HES data can capture more serious incidents due to the need for such medical attention.</li> <li>Hospital admissions from HES data excludes some victims who may have needed/received treatment, such as from a walk-in clinic or pharmacy.</li> <li>It should be pointed out that the NHS data reported in this chapter (from the LRI and HES) cannot distinguish the age of the suspected perpetrator nor the location of the offence (such as a public place). Therefore, there are limitations in any read-across to the Leicestershire Police reported data, and care should be taken when interpreting and drawing any conclusions.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics (<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>). They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

