

SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY

2024-2025

JANUARY 31, 2024 LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM





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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Strategy document has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.
- 1.2 The duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment, and production of a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.
- 1.3 The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.
- 1.4 The responsible authorities (also known as 'duty holders') in the Serious Violence Duty will be:
- The police
- Fire and rescue authorities
- Justice organisations (youth offending teams and probation services)
- Health bodies (Integrated Care Boards)
- Local authorities

Educational institutions, prisons and youth custodial institutions will be under a separate duty to co-operate with duty holders, but they are not duty holders.

- 1.5 This strategy takes account of guidance issued by the government, as well as London guidance, developed by the London Violence Reduction Unit, in collaboration with London Councils, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police, NHS London and Probation Service.
- 1.6 The strategy sets out the agreed definition of Serious Violence for the borough, summarises the key aspects of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, the partnership arrangements that have been agreed locally to lead on delivery of the duty, the areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence, and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities including young people, as well as businesses.



2 Definition of Serious Violence

- 2.1 The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 states that, for the purposes of the Duty, serious violence includes domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism.
- 2.2 In considering serious violence within their area, specified authorities should encompass serious violence as defined for the purposes of the Government's Serious Violence Strategy, and include a focus on issues such as public space youth violence. The Governments Serious Violence Strategy sets out specific types of crime of concern, including homicide, violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing. These crimes should be at the core of the serious violence duty for the purpose of its reduction and prevention.

The London Guidance advises that Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in London, is defined as:

"Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences."

Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The London Borough of Newham have agreed to adopt this definition of serious violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty.



3 Local Partnership Arrangements

- 3.1 In the London borough of Newham we are following the London guidance and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will be the lead partnership for implementation and ensuring compliance with the duty.
- 3.2 Newham's Community Safety Partnership is a partnership established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The overarching aim of the Partnership is to make Newham a better place for residents, businesses, and visitors to the borough by: reducing crime and the fear of crime; addressing the risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and by facilitating the strengthening of Newham's communities in the delivery of local initiatives. It is responsible for delivering the priorities set out in the Newham Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-25.
- 3.3 The CSP is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety. The CSP board meets quarterly alongside a range of sub groups meeting around specific priority areas.

The CSP consists of representatives from the following partners:

- Newham Council, including Community Safety, Youth Justice Service, Children's and Adults Services, Regulatory Services, Corporate Resilience, Domestic Abuse and Drug and Alcohol Commissioning
- Met Police
- London Fire Brigade
- Probation Service
- NHS
- Victim Support
- Rights and Equalities in Newham
- Safer Neighbourhood Board



4 Summary of the Strategic Needs Assessment of Violence

- 4.1 The strategic needs assessment is intended to enable partners to identify current and long-term issues relating to serious violence and those most vulnerable to involvement in the local area. This provides a greater understanding of established and emerging serious violence trends, priority locations or other high-risk issues.
- 4.2 The strategic needs assessment has been developed following an evidence-based analysis of data relating to violence, as well as broader datasets including those in relation to deprivation and health.
- 4.3 The strategic needs assessment has looked at the critical areas of violence and vulnerability within the definition of serious violence, including violence affecting those under the age of 25, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- 4.4 In assessing each of the critical areas, the analysis has looked at locations that have a higher risk of violence and temporal factors, such as the times of greater and lesser offending, including the times of day, days of the week and seasonal trends through the year. The analysis has also looked at the profile of victims and offenders of violence, in order to understand the risks and opportunities for prevention.

4.5 All Violence Offences Under 25s

- There were 2,629 violent offences in 2022/23, this is an increase of 7% compared to 2021/22. The top three offences were Assault without Injury (29%), Robbery (19%) and Actual Bodily Harm (19%)
- Suspects were mainly male (61.2%), with mainly male victims (60.5%) with suspects and victims likely to be under 17 (30.4%).
- Violent offences are statistically more likely to occur on Mondays and Tuesdays which is against the London trend of weekends and between the hours of 00:00 -00:59 and 15:00 - 15:59.
- 308 Violence offences in Newham involved Knife Crime. That involves threats as well as the use of a knife. This was a 41% increase in offences from the previous year.
- Whilst incidents occur across the borough, Stratford was the main hotspot for violence with Injury involving under 25s.

4.6 Homicide under 25s

• There was a total of 2 homicides in 2022/23, this is a 50% reduction compared to 2021/22.

4.7 Robbery Under 25s

- There was a total of 518 robbery offences in 2022/23 where victims were under 25, this is an increase of 14% on 2021/22.
- 220 Robberies in Newham involved Knife Crime (42.5% of Robbery offences). That
 involves threats as well as the use of a knife.



- 60.4% of victims were aged 1-17, 39.6% were aged 18-24, 87.9% of victims were male
- 44.4% of suspects were aged 1-17, 82.6% were male
- There was a higher proportion of offences involving knifes for offences involving under 25 year olds (6%)
- Hotspots around town centre locations of Stratford and East Ham

4.8 Domestic Abuse

- There were 3659 offences flagged with domestic abuse in 2022/23, this is a 3% decrease compared to 2021/22
- Most offences were most likely to occur at the weekend, during the hours of 00:00 -00:59 and 12:00-12:59.
- Most offences flagged with domestic abuse relate to Assault without Injury (27%) and ABH (18%).
- Victims were most likely to be aged between 18-34 (17.5%), of Asian ethnicity and female (74.9%)
- Hotspots are in broad, with offences spread across the borough.

4.9 Sexual Offences

- There were 777 offences in 2022/23, this is a decrease of 3 offences when compared to 21/22
- 34% of sexual offences were rape offences.
- 16% of offences were flagged as domestic abuse
- Sexual offences are statistically more likely to happen on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 00:00 and 00:59 and 20:00 and 20:59.
- Victims are most likely to be aged 1-17 (26.2%), of white ethnicity (35.0%) and female (87%)
- Suspects most likely to be young 18-34 (12.4%) 25 34 (21.3%), of unknown ethnicity (35.9%) followed by Asian ethnicity (22.3%) and male (84.4%)
- Offences tend to take place in Stratford, Plaistow South, Custom House and Beckton wards.



5 Partnership Priorities to Reduce Violence in Newham

5.1 Taking account of the Strategic Needs Assessment, the local partnership has agreed the following strategic objectives for the next 12 months to prevent and reduce serious violence:

5.2 Under 25s Violence with Injury

- Reduce Knife enabled crime
- Reduce Robbery affecting young people after school
- Tackle Stratford as a hotspot for youth violence

5.3 Domestic Abuse

Reduce DA with Injury offences taking borough wide approach

5.4 Sexual Violence

- Reduce offences involving young victims
- Better understand sexual violence profile in Newham
- Tackle VAWG offence hotspot in Stratford

5.5 We will do this by focusing our efforts on:

- Early intervention and prevention including those already known to the criminal justice system
- · Addressing disproportionality
- Building trust and confidence with statutory partners
- Hyper local focus and community engagement

Each duty holder has collaboratively devised a plan to prevent and reduce serious violence in accordance with our priorities.

5.6 The priorities above link to existing strategies in place including:

Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan 2022 -25

The domestic abuse and sexual violence action plan is focused around delivering the following priorities:



PRIORITY 1:
DEVELOP
A WHOLE
COMMUNITY
RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC
ABUSE

ENHANCING
OUR
COORDINATED
PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE

PRIORITY 3:
OUR
COMMITMENT
TO SUPPORTING
THE NEEDS OF ALL
SURVIVORS

PRIORITY 4: EARLY INTERVENTION AND AWARENESS



PRIORITY 5:
ADDRESSING
INTERSECTIONALITY,
EQUALITY AND EQUITY

PRIORITY 6: SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AND ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DISADVANTAGE



PRIORITY 7: SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



PRIORITY 8:
EMBEDDING
THE VOICES
OF DOMESTIC ABUSE
SURVIVORS AND
RESIDENTS

PRIORITY 9:
HOLDING
PERPETRATORS
OF ABUSE TO
ACCOUNT FOR THEIR
ACTIONS AND OFFERING
THEM SUPPORT
TO CHANGE THEIR
BEHAVIOUR

PRIORITY 10:
MAKING
NEWHAM SAFER
FOR ALL RESIDENTS
(INCLUDING WOMEN'S
SAFETY)

PRIORITY 11: SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS



PRIORITY 12: CREATING A DOMESTIC ABUSE CAMPAIGN





5.7 Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-25

The CSP Plan has set out the following priorities to tackle and reduce crime in Newham:

- Violence and Victimisation Reduce Domestic Abuse and VAWG and tackle Serious Violence
- Neighbourhood crime Reduce crime and ASB in identified hotspots including Stratford and Reduce reoffending and tackle the drivers of crime

5.8 Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan

The partnership has agreed a range of activity to reduce the risks of violence and vulnerability, in support of the strategic objectives. These are set out within a Violence and Vulnerability Reduction Action Plan. This plan contains information for which disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The plan template contains seven different themes each with a set of mandatory actions as well as a menu of optional actions. The themes within the local plan are:

- Governance this provides an oversight of the leadership and governance of violence reduction locally, detailing the senior leadership structure as well as interoperability between Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Adults Safeguarding Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reduce violence
- 2. **Analysis and Enforcement** understanding of how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally, including the Strategic Needs Assessment, monthly tasking meetings and using wider public health data
- 3. **Reducing Access to Weapons** how partners are working jointly to minimise access including using Trading Standards initiatives and weapons sweeps
- 4. **Safeguarding and Educating Young people** contains actions that include focusing on reducing exclusions, contextual safeguarding, support for children in care and care leavers, working with parents and carers and ensuring schools are safe and inclusive spaces.
- 5. Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence ensuring that local delivery works closely with communities to reduce violence including the Voluntary and Community Sector and in particular young people, who are most adversely affected by violence.
- 6. **Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability** ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are most vulnerable to being exploited.
- Positive Diversion from Violence recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them before or to move away from criminality



6. Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

Underpinning our strategic priorities are a range of actions that the partnership are taking to reduce violence:

6.1 Youth Offending Service

- Work proactively with partner organisations to identify those children/young people at risk of, or affected by violence outside the home
- Provide expert support/training for schools to develop their skills and expertise in supporting children/families
- Multi-agency triage of need
- Planning and deliver multi-agency interventions
- Allocating lead professional to ensure delivery, review and tweaking of plan to address need
- Preventing Child Exploitation and Harm (PCEHH) Hub which identifies children who
 may be at risk from any form of exploitation by intervening early to respond to 'critical
 moments'
- Harnessing support from across the partnership including schools, charities, and the voluntary sector
- Continuing with PCEHH which supports understanding and informs responses to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing, Child Criminal Exploitation/gangs and county lines, Serious Youth Violence (SYV), Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and modern slavery
- Continuing with Newham Information and Intelligence Partnership Board (LBNIIPB)
 meetings to support collaborative working and share salient information
- Improve communication, data sharing and coordinated community responses to address children impacted by youth violence and anti-social behaviour
- Build the skills, confidence and capacity of mainstream agencies to identify those children/young people at risk and have strategies to support them
- Develop more innovative, community based and personalised responses to supporting children/young people and families involving our voluntary sector partners
- Test out our 'emerging family help' model for supporting families in Newham
- Improvements in school attendance and reductions in suspensions and permanent exclusions, building on our approach to school inclusion.
- Improvements in emotional well-being of those children/young people accessing support
- Reduction to first-time entrants to youth justice and the numbers of children/young people becoming 'looked after' as a result of more focused and targeted 'early intervention' support
- Two close to school 'Thriving Communities Teams' within East Ham and Plaistow to deliver a multi-agency, integrated response.
- Support post-school age NEET children (between 15- 20 at any one time) and a strength within the service is the commitment to education, training and employment (YOS NEET Offer).



6.2 Youth Empowerment Service

The Youth Empowerment Service (YES) plays a crucial role within the community and partnership and contributes to an effective response to address serious violence.

- YES work closely with key partners to offer young people support/assistance to access an ambitious informal education curriculum which supports emotional and social development whilst staying safe.
- YES offers a wide range of voluntary programmes that give young people (aged 10-25) an opportunity to access support in order to reach their goals and ambitions whilst staying safe.

Programmes offered include:

- **Detached Youth Service**, this provides a street based youth offer to young people, including those deemed as vulnerable, who may not otherwise be accessing a service via a main stream organisation/building.
- Return Home Intervention service offers support to vulnerable children and young people who have gone missing alongside our intensive/targeted youth offer for young people in need of a 1-2-1 or small group setting.
- YES have 5 LBN Youth Zones and commission 4 others, geographically spread
 across the borough that offer a large number of young people a universal youth offer
 throughout the year. This offer is key in relation to supporting the early help and
 prevention agenda as youth zones are usually the first point of out of school contact
 for many of our young people.
- The Participation Service amplifies young people's voices, ensuring that their lived experiences influence corporate policy and decision making and also offers specific work for vulnerable children and young people at risk of exploitation/youth violence from marginalised backgrounds such as care leavers, young people with special educational needs and young people from the LGBQ+ community.
- YES work closely with key partners to ensures that those young people vulnerable to exploitation and serious violence are heard and supported to stay safe.
- YES actively use and contribute to a wide range of partnership
 platforms/mechanisms internally and externally to ensure our responses to serious
 violence and exploitation are robust. This often includes sharing data/information with
 key partners in order to support young people and the wider community to get the
 right support at the right time to in order to disrupt/reduce youth violence and
 exploitation.



6.3 Youth Safety Service

- Strengthening Early help and integrated services
- Developing Safe Havens for our young people and community
- Accessible apprenticeship offers, accessed via Our Newham Work: Youth Team
- Providing bleed kits to local establishments
- Supporting Parents and Carers engagement via a partnership network of Trusted Adults across the connected support partnership community
- Ensuring victims of crimes are aware of the access to support
- Working with partners to develop the Youth Safety Impact Framework

6.4 Vanguard Service (NHS)

Vanguard is a specialist community psychology led service in Newham, for young people up to 25 years of age, that are impacted by, or at risk of youth violence. The team is made up of practitioners from different services including the NHS, Newham's Children and Young People's Services and The Children's Society. They aim to put mental health and wellbeing at the heart of the support which is offered, to improve emotional well-being; increase access to education, employment and training; increase stability; and divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

Under 18-year-olds

- The framework will be delivered by expanding on existing services, responding to the needs of young people and families.
- Reconfigure the Vanguard staff team so they are delivering within the CMSVRP model
- To enhance psychologically informed practice through training, consultation and clinical supervision
- Delivered through frontline vanguard staff, statutory (e.g. Youth Empowerment Service, Early Help, Youth Justice Service etc.) and VCS partners

18-25-year-olds

- Individual level (1-1, group and family intervention)
- Co-produced alongside young people and the community to ensure provision is accessible and acceptable
- Holistic seeing the whole person within their context and consideration for the different aspects of their lives that might require support (e.g. Education, Employment & Training (EET); Mental Health/Wellbeing, family factors, stability)
- Wrapping mental health support around youth led interests and activities to address the unmet mental health need - e.g. youth led activities, young person led support, social action projects
- A focus on systems repairing relationship to help-seeking through interventions that are co-produced, strength-based and have a social justice lens
- Delivered through linking in with VCS partners and building on their youth work/casework offer to deliver clinically supported young person facing work (overseen via joint work, clinical case forums/formulation spaces, supervision, coproduced teachings and trainings)
- Consideration for longer term sustainable outcomes beyond the length of the pilot



 Working alongside VCS partners to deliver group and peer level community practice (could include co-facilitating co-produced group approaches or embedding Vanguard workers within VCS spaces - e.g. Outreach Hub embedding Vanguard practitioners into VCS organisations to provide 'drop ins' for young people - information hub for advice and signposting on health and wellbeing)

6.5 Fire and Rescue

- Establishing fire cadet programme and supporting activities LFB could carry out to assist young people and the wider community
- Providing access to bleed control boxes and kits at Stratford, Plaistow and East Ham fire stations (ensuring all staff are trained in using kits)
- Conducting engaging conversations with schools to discuss the Youth Violence Position Statement
- Launching LFB Borough Risk Management Plan
- Increasing community engagement and offering safe spaces for our community to host events
- Providing education on staying safe using support networks

6.6 Police - CID

- Structured seasonal planning with Partners to ensure an enhanced service is provided at key times throughout the year when crime levels peak
- 4 Point Plan for High Harm Gangs, designed in partnership with key stakeholders
- Intel-led Hot Spot patrols
- Priorities determined at the TTCG based on analytical data, local knowledge, Partners' views and communities' views through Zen City data
- Proactive team dedicated to each priority
- Achilles Heel tactics on priority offenders identified through police tools
- Wanted offenders prioritised for offences related to violence

6.7 Police - Public Protection

- Identification of the VAWG 100 developed in partnership with Cambridge University / 'Cambridge Harm Index'. This seeks to proactively target the highest risk offenders outside of reporting incidents, utilising 'Achilles Heel' tactics.
- Locally we have an emphasis on reducing outstanding wanted offenders, targeting repeat offenders and endeavouring to encourage repeat victims into preventative measures.
- Risk Management Team will identify the most vulnerable victims and intervene effectively – not just reacting by way of the severity of the crime type.
- Continue to invest in quality partnership first approaches via MARAC / MASH / MAPPA investment, always looking to safeguard the victims and wider public wherever possible.
- Conduct weekly performance review across the MPS and this is scrutinised by the BCU Commander every month to ensure all areas of our response are working efficiently.



6.8 Police - Neighbourhood

- Diversion & Education Use of Safer School Officers (SSO) in Secondary Schools to provide education and visible access to police for young persons. Youth Engagement & Diversion Officers (YEDO) will work with schools, local youth zones, charities and other diversion providers in order to engage and divert young person away from criminality. Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) will establish relationships with the Primary Schools within their wards and provide education to younger children. The Youth Offending Team (YOT) will monitor crime reports and where offending youths are identified, if appropriate, offer alternative methods of criminal justice disposal.
- Community Engagement The police will hold regular engagement sessions with the local community in order to better understand the catalysts and concerns relating to local violence. These will be in the format of ward panels, street briefings, innovation hubs, community led forums and any other suitable format in order to capture the local communities voice and then instigate policing plans from it.
- Trust & Confidence in Policing We will work with our local communities in order
 to build our trust and confidence with a real focus on the under 25 population. We will
 utilise our community led Independent Advisory Groups (IAG), Police Encounters
 Panel (PEP) and Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) as a 'critical friend' with a
 particular focus on the disproportionately in the use of our tactics. We will listen and
 act on the feedback from the Public Attitude Survey (PAS) and ZenCity surveys to
 drive trust and confidence in the local police in Newham.
- **Information Sharing** Through our data sharing agreements (DSA) we will actively and openly share relevant information with partners in order to collectively address emerging trends and threats.
- ASB & Drug Strategy We will be a key contributor to the establishing of a local ASB and Drug Strategy as part of a preventative plan as these crime types are usually the precursors to serious violence.



7. Engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, young people and local businesses

- 7.1 Local communities, the voluntary and community sector (VCS), local businesses and young people have an important role to play in violence reduction. Our local violence and vulnerability reduction action plan contain a range of activity that involves communities and neighbourhoods in reducing violence and the action within these should support the strategy.
- 7.2 In developing the local strategy to reduce serious violence, we have consulted with Community Safety Partners, Voluntary Sector Organisations and our residents.
- 7.3 When developing the Domestic Abuse Strategy, Co-production and consultation events took place with survivors, residents, LBN employees, national and local domestic abuse organisations and community groups. We developed our coproduction model as an example of our domestic abuse values of believing survivors, working sensitively and compassionately, while recognising the impact of trauma and valuing people.

Identified funding streams or resources that can be used by the partnership for prevention and reduction activities

Name and source of fund	Amount per annum	Description of activity
Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF)	£200,000	Community Engagement Fund Early Help Practitioners
Mayors office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF)	£650,000	Hestia Domestic Abuse Service CGL Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services
VRU Serious Violence Duty Grant	£20,000 (2023/24) £10,000 (2024/25)	Implementation of Serious Violence duty - interventions aligned to strategy.
VRU Critical Incident Fund	Up to £25,000 per application	Support for families and communities at times of critical incidents.



8. Publishing of the Strategy

8.1 The Strategy document will need to be published on the council's website by 31st January 2024.

9.Date for review/annual review mechanism

- 9.1 This Strategy document will be reviewed annually, with the next review due by January 2025.
- 9.2 Progress of this strategy, the objectives set out within it and the local action plan, will be reviewed at least quarterly through the Community Safety Partnership or equivalent local partnership meeting.

10.Summary of Annual Assessment of Progress

10.1 This section will be applicable 12 months after the local Strategy is produced and will provide a summary of the annual assessment of the partnership's performance against the previous years' strategy

11. Appendix A

Serious Violence Duty Needs Summary



12. Appendix B - Useful Links

- Home Office Serious Violence Strategy
- Crime dashboard
- Serious Violence Taskforce



13. Appendix C - Glossary of Terms

- BCU- Basic Command Unit
- CCE -Child Criminal Exploitation
- CID- Criminal Investigation Department
- CSE- Child Sexual Exploitation
- CSP- Community Safety Partnership
- HSB- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- LBNIIPB- London Borough of Newham information and intelligence partnership Board
- LCPF -London Crime Prevention Fund
- LFB-London Fire Brigade
- MAPPA- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement
- MARAC- Multi Agency Risk Assessment
- MASH- Multi Agency Safe Guarding Hub Conference
- MOPAC -Mayor's Office for Police & Crime
- MPS- Metropolitan Police Service
- PCEHH-Preventing Child Exploitation and Harm Hub
- SNT- Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- SSO- Safer School Officers
- SYV- Serious Youth Violence
- VAWG- Violence against women and Girls
- VCS- Voluntary and Community Sector
- VRU- Violence Reduction Unit
- VVAP-Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan
- YEDO- Youth Engagement & Diversion Officers
- YOS-Youth Offending Service