

Early interventions to reduce violent crime



Violent crime includes a range of offences, from minor assaults to murder. Overall crime has decreased since a peak in the mid-1990s. However, some violent crimes have increased over the last four years. In the past decade there have been a range of interventions and strategies implemented to reduce violent crime. This POSTnote will examine national and international evidence on early interventions to reduce violent crime.

Context

The Office for National Statistics' analysis of police recorded crimes for the past four years found that violent crime has stayed at a similar level and in 2017 (the latest available data), there were around 1.4 million violent offences. However, there has been an increase in some types of violent crime, specifically homicide and crimes involving knives or other sharp instruments. These offences are disproportionately concentrated in London and other metropolitan areas.

In April 2018, the Home Office published the Serious Violence Strategy, setting out a multi-agency approach to reducing violent crime. It brings together law enforcement, youth services, social services and other agencies to identify and address potential risk and preventive factors for violent crime. The strategy also launched an Early Intervention Youth fund to support communities in prevention of violent crime. In September 2018, the Mayor of London established the Violence Reduction Unit, bringing together specialists in health, police and local government to

POST Publications

Method

POST draws on the expertise of a wide range of external parties. Input comes from industry, NGOs, academics, regulators and government. A draft of the report will be circulated to all major contributors for comment prior to the publication of the final document. Contributors will be acknowledged on POST's website, unless they request otherwise. POST is a public body and is subject to FOI law. If you would like more information please ask.

Timing

It is planned that the briefing will be produced for publication in April 2019

Dissemination

All of POST's publications are publicly available. The briefing note will be published in paper form and distributed to Parliamentarians and other interested parties. It will also be available on POST's website www.parliament.uk/post

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tackle the causes of violent crime. Both strategies use a public health approach, where violence is treated like a health issue and multi-agency interventions are used to stop it spreading and to address underlying causes.

This POSTnote will examine national and international evidence on early interventions (those aimed at individuals aged under 18) to reduce violent crime.

Scope

The aims of this POSTnote are to provide MPs and Peers with an overview setting out:

- The current state of violent crime in the UK, with attention to geographical hotspots.
- The current approaches used to tackle violent crime across the four UK nations.
- Evidence on the potential risk and prevention factors for children and young people becoming involved in violent crime.
- Evidence on the success of early interventions in preventing or reducing violent crime.