Merseyside Police

Serious Violence Asset Mapping

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Project Overview

Resulting from the Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022, the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) was introduced to mandate key public sector organisations to work together to reduce and prevent serious violence in their localities. It required Specified Authorities (Police, Justice, Fire & Rescue, Health, and Local Authorities) and Relevant Authorities (for example, but not limited to, charity & voluntary sector organisations, prison authorities, youth custody authorities, educational authorities) to work collaboratively in order to actively reduce and prevent Serious Violence in their communities.

This resulted in a collaborative multi-agency approach across local partnerships, who are focused on combatting Serious Violence and preventing the harm it causes to individuals and communities. Such partnership approaches, through Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), and Violence Reduction Units (VRUs), take an active lead on coordinating the local community response.

Alchemmy were invited by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside (OPCCM) to undertake and deliver a strengths-based asset mapping assessment to identify, describe, and visualise strategic and operational assets, to support the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership in preventing and reducing Serious Violence.

690 **Serious Violence Assets** recorded, documented and quality assured

110 **Stakeholders engaged**, across **5** Merseyside **Boroughs**

21 **Organisations** engaged with

7 Interactive stakeholder **workshops**

>5 **Bespoke Stakeholder Sessions** to support further asset collection

The Approach

The team adopted a people-centred, agile approach to the project.
The delivery approach consisted of three sprints:

- Sprint One: **Mobilisation & Literature Review**
- Sprint Two: **Stakeholder Engagement & Asset Collection**
- Sprint Three: **Quality Assurance & Final Deliverables Build**

A key aspect of the project was understanding and accounting for the stakeholder environment and sensitive nature of discussing the impact of Serious Violence. We facilitated seven workshops, as well as holding several 1:2:1 discussions with highly knowledgeable members of the local community partnership within the Specified and Relevant Authorities, engaging a total of 110 stakeholders across 21 different organisations.

Workshops were designed to be both engaging and constructive.
They used relatable scenarios to systematically gather information about assets, ensuring all required data points were covered. This approach allowed all stakeholders to fully contribute their extensive knowledge and experience.
The combination of our understanding of the public sector and law enforcement aided the facilitation of workshops.

Upon workshop completion, data consolidation and classification took place. This was carried out in a rule-based and structured approach to ensure consistency and accuracy across the asset landscape. This also captured and incorporated a broad range of data points to allow bespoke analysis of the final products, and flexibility for end-users to explore the data. Despite the open interpretation of the serious violence asset definition, and the unstructured nature of the asset data collection, the project team developed the data model in a way to ensure flexibility during data collection. This ultimately supported the data visualisation strategy through the interactive PowerBI dashboard.

As a result, a fundamental phase within the project was the Quality Assurance (QA) process. Each of the 690 assets went through rigorous and extensive QA. The project team deployed a three-step QA process to ensure accuracy for each of the data points; this included, but not limited to, asset address, contact, classification, and categorisation. This demonstrated and supplemented the ability for the partnership to utilise the visualised data in a meaningful and actionable way.

The Solution

Following a comprehensive stakeholder engagement phase, we designed, built, and delivered an interactive geographical Asset Dashboard and Directory that will deliver lasting support to the partnership. The Asset Dashboard and Directory enables partners to make evidence-based decisions, aiding deeper system understanding, culminating in collaboration across the partnership. Users of the solutions can interact with the information in dynamic way on both solutions, by analysing demographic discrepancies across regional areas, whilst understanding potential gaps in Serious Violence services. Included within the Final Report, the project team analysed the findings and provided insights into the asset data, highlighting gaps therefore fostering transparency and accountability.

The Asset Dashboard and the supplementary Directory, were built to enable product owners to amend, update, and publish changes as needed, post implementation; a principle that demonstrates the longevity of the products to combat and reduce Serious Violence. Products produced from the project include a Final Report, an Asset Map Dashboard, and an Asset Directory.

Conclusions

The data visualisation products delivered will support the local partnership with a dynamic and responsive tool to combat and reduce Serious Violence across the Merseyside region. The project delivered the ability for the partnership to undertake bespoke regional analysis, facilitating a deepened understanding of the system, allowing for improved decision-making to be taken. Understanding of the community spaces, sports provisions, multi-agency boards, and other assets forms, ultimately cultivates an environment the support the partnership in preventing and reducing Serious Violence.