

Southwark Anti-Violence Unit (SAVU)

The London Borough of Southwark set up the Southwark Anti-Violence Unit (SAVU) in May 2012.

SAVU is a multi-agency team tackling serious youth violence, gang involvement and its associated criminality.

The core team consists of these statutory and community/voluntary agencies:

- National Probation Service
- London Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- Southwark Youth Offending Service
- St Giles Trust
- Together-UK - Clinical Practitioner
- Southwark Works
- Southwark Job Centre Plus - Department for Work & Pensions
- Met Police - Southwark Gangs Unit
- Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit – Southwark Council

The project maintains close links to a variety of other local agencies, including Redthread (GSTT), Southwark Council Housing Department, Southwark Social Care & Children's Services, St Mungo's and Look Ahead.

Young people (16 - 25) can be referred by any agency, they will be assessed and offered a service or directed to other support.

Those accepted are offered a bespoke package characterised by support and challenge, comprising all or some of the following elements.

Mentoring

- Trauma-informed support
- Pro-Social Modelling
- Communication skills development
- Diet and nutrition, personal hygiene
- Personal budgeting and money management
- Attendance and time-keeping at appointments

- Escorting and advocacy when negotiating with agencies around Housing, immigration issues and Health services
- Mediation within families and between peers

Mental Health support

- Dedicated Clinical Practitioner
- Information gathering (linking with GPs and statutory services)
- Initial clinical assessment
- Low level intervention, e.g. CBT
- Trauma-focused approach
- Accelerated access to specialist mental health services

Reducing serious youth violence

- SERVE emergency re-location service – short conditional offer of accommodation to reduce risk and give individuals to address the issues they face away from the location where they face more risk.
- Sharing information and intelligence to regularly review and reduce risk, a fortnightly tasking meeting is held to evaluate risk, and coordinate interventions and support attended by core team listed above.
- Providing a consistent challenge to attitudes, behaviour and thinking

Education, Training or Employment (ETE)

- A team of linked specialists providing one-on-one support to bring clients to readiness for work and/or training

Whilst these services are offered by a range of specialists there is a degree of pragmatic overlap as SAVU prides itself on providing a wraparound approach to enable young people to change the narrative and opt for a brighter and safer future.