

## Information Sharing to Tackle Violence

and the vital role all ED staff play in violence prevention

May 2025

Your hospital. Your community. The part YOU play.

“Public safety is truly a whole of society concern.”

Dame Diana Johnson  
Minister of State for Policing,  
Crime and Fire Prevention



### Vital information collected in EDs helps to build a clear picture of where and how violence occurs

#### Minister of state reaffirms Government's commitment to tackling serious violence

Dame Diana Johnson, Secretary of State for Policing, Crime and Fire Prevention provided a video address to those present at the national ISTV learning event in London (11 March 2025), acknowledging the invaluable work that those working in the health sector have done in understanding and supporting efforts to prevent serious violence.

The Minister said: “As well as responding to the immediate and often life changing consequences of violence, the vital information collected in emergency departments is helping us to build a clear picture of where and how violence occurs and to address that need through impactful strategies and interventions.”

At a recent visit to the Royal London Hospital, Dame Johnson saw first hand where clinical leads have worked in partnership with organisations like St Giles's Trust to ensure that skilled youth workers are able to provide support to young people at a 'reachable and teachable' moment when they present with violence related injuries.

Work like this across the capital is helping thousands of young Londoners to find positive roots away from gangs and criminality. The Minister commended the impact of this, saying: “It is exactly this sort of work that we need to maximise as we progress our safer streets mission.”

Credit was also given to Dr Adrian Boyle and Professor Jonathan Shepherd - for spearheading ISTV/the Cardiff Model, informed by their own experiences, and to clinical leads who have been pivotal in driving this forward over the past decade.

## ISTV LONDON LEARNING EVENT

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The national learning event for ISTV, completed a recent roadshow, and took place in London on 11 March 2025. More than 100 were in attendance, including emergency medicine clinicians, data analysts, violence reduction leads, safeguarding leads, nurses, crime analysts and clinical fellows – the people who we rely on to make ISTV work in practice.

Leading clinicians, government officials and violence reduction partnerships explained what ISTV is, their experiences and why it's so important.

It was a day of collaboration and problem solving, with input from:

- Jahangir Alom, EM Registrar, Newham University Hospital
- Adrian Boyle, President, RCEM
- Michael Carver, Clinical Lead, NHS Violence Reduction Academy
- Michael Cheetham, Violence Reduction Data Manager, NHS London
- Professor Jonathan Shepherd CBE, Cardiff University
- Adam Woodgate, EM Consultant, Royal London Hospital
- Katie Wright, EM consultant and Clinical Lead for the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership



Dr Jahangir Alom shared his thoughts on the day



Dr Katie Wright found the day inspiring

### ISTV - LONDON LEARNING EVENT

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Here's what one of the delegates had to say following the event:

*"This event has definitely made me think about how I document assaults and led to discussions with nursing staff who are also unaware of its significance. Discussion with colleagues has also initiated an audit to see whether we are documenting assaults correctly."*

[Read more](#)

## NEW PODCAST:

### DR ADRIAN BOYLE TALKS ISTV WITH EMERGENCY MEDICINE CONSULTANT SALEYHA AHSAN

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In the first in a series of three special ISTV Podcasts we heard from Dr Boyle - his views and experience of ISTV - an interest for many years having seen the results of Professor Shepherd's Cardiff Model for violence prevention.

Early on in his career as an EM consultant, Dr Boyle saw first-hand the scale of violent injury that the police never know anything about.

Dr Boyle's own hospital embraced ISTV, doing it well - with significant results. Addenbrookes has halved the number of assaults they see every year, over a 20 year period. Violent assault attendances reduced from almost 1,300 to 600.

Crucially, success like this relies on sharing anonymised data with the right people who can take action. To make this work, Dr Boyle says: "You need the right people round the table to build relationships. Give people the time and the headspace - the protected time to develop those relationships."

Describing crime prevention as a classic wicked problem, with no one intervention being transformative, Dr Boyle is optimistic of the structures that are proving effective - Violence Reduction Units, and the coordination of a multi-agency approach.

Advocacy interventions have proven to show benefit but sadly essential services are being cut when we see progress being made.



*A stark contrast puts this into perspective, when compared with homicides that cost millions on investigations, court proceedings and incarcerations.*

*"You don't have to prevent very many homicides for this to be cost-effective."*

*Dr Boyle is resolute that the College will keep advocating "not only for the staff but fundamentally its about our patients."*

*"There's nothing worse than seeing someone who has been stabbed to death."*

*This is preventable which is why every ED should to get on board with ISTV.*