**Official Sensitive**

**Violent Fixated Individuals Analytical Group**

13 February 2025

**Minute**

1) Flexibility of timescales: We need to support a conversation in March with data on this area, therefore we do need existing data back to allow synthesis, consensus, and challenge. However, if there are things that are going to take longer then we should be open to that, as whilst we want to move at pace we also want to have the right data feeding into the analysis.

2) We have come up with a name for this cohort - Violent Fixated Individuals - but this is challenging to define. In CMOs mind it is a spectrum - at one end are individuals with severe mental health issues (i.e. Nottingham attack), at the other end of the spectrum are 'traditional' terrorists and then there is everyone in between.

3) Emphasis on how we define these individuals being the most important question.

4) Are we talking about individuals who pose a risk, i.e. Southport attack, or are we looking at a wider group of individuals? It is difficult to know what behaviours we are looking for without defining the risk metrics.

5) **T2D** (MET Police) - to reach out to police forces for any data that they have on risk metrics.

6) There was no coherence around what the Southport attacker was looking at.

7) The policy around this will be developed alongside the analysis.

8) The Home Office highlights that there has been a definition in operation since April 2024 around fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attack. There is some data that they would be willing to share.

9) Whilst some people do commit these crimes due to mental health reasons, it's not always the sole reason.

10) The Ministry of Justice has some intelligence and data on probation surrounding this. There are issues with the defining of these individuals as it might be picked up through the prison/court system people who are on the path to these extreme crimes, but if we tighten up the definition too much then we might miss a group of people.

11) A question on do we really understand the Southport attacker - we are assuming it all comes down to violence but is this a big assumption to make?

12) A missing question is "What is the threat of VFIs?". Before we look at "What interventions are most effective?"

**Actions**

- Cabinet Office to update Terms of Reference and recirculate.
- All to respond to the questions in the Terms of Reference by 26 February and ideally sooner.
- Cabinet Office to setup a subsequent meeting in about a fortnight.
- Cabinet Office to work with colleagues to setup a workshop to focus on defining VFIs as a priority foundation question.