



West Yorkshire
**Violence Reduction
Partnership**

Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

January 2025

Authored by the Violence Reduction Partnership

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Foreword

The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire 2024-28 has a specific spotlight on tackling serious violence.

Our Strategic Needs Assessment 25/26 really complements this long-term strategy, ensuring we have our finger on the pulse in both identifying the issues and delivering the solutions.

We haven't arrived here overnight; however, it is the product of the Violence Reduction Partnership's continued progress over many years.

The knowledge, learning and experience we have gathered is enabling us to act with an ever-greater degree of insight and understanding of the challenges.

Recognising the ways in which serious violence manifests itself and changes, is crucial to determining how we respond and adapt.

This means unpicking the data, speaking to our partners and those with lived experience.

It allows us to make an accurate assessment of community needs, the influential factors behind serious violence and the remedies required to prevent it from happening.

The 'Serious Violence Duty', which places legal requirements on certain agencies is now firmly embedded locally.

It has cemented the roles of our partners in the collective response to serious violence and reinforced what is already one of the most mature and established partnerships in the country.

Our recent development of a 'Child First' Framework for West Yorkshire is also a sign of our evolution, placing children at the heart of decision making.

With a national ambition to half knife crime in the next decade and West Yorkshire designated a government taskforce area for tackling knife enabled robbery, the expectation is clear.

This document has therefore never been more significant in informing our partnership response and keeping our communities safe, just, and inclusive.

**Director of the West Yorkshire
Violence Reduction Partnership**

**Detective Chief Superintendent,
Lee Berry**



Introduction

This West Yorkshire strategic needs assessment (SNA) provides a refreshed baseline and shared understanding of the reality of violence in West Yorkshire through the analysis of a comprehensive suite of local and national data. Central to this understanding is:

- What is the shape of the problem;
- Where is it taking place;
- When is it taking place;
- Who is involved; and,
- Why is it happening.

Setting out our understanding of the problem of violence in this way is critical to the success of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership and our partners.

The [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#) outlines new duties in respect to serious violence. This specific new Serious Violence Duty (SVD) requires specified authorities, known as duty holders, to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

To support duty holders, we have developed five district level profiles to identify localised issues. We have provided the key findings from each of these profiles within this document. The findings of this SNA and respective district level profiles should be used to assist named duty holders with preparing and delivering a needs-focused action plan to reduce serious violence as required by the SVD.

The information presented has been provided through effective data sharing practices by partner agencies, to which we are grateful, as

tackling serious violence requires a collective and partnership driven response.

The document should be read in conjunction with the influential factors evidence synthesis.

Definition of violence

The Home Office outlined three key success measures for VRPs:

- I. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- II. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- III. A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Beyond these three success measures, the Home Office allowed for flexibility for VRPs to adopt a broader definition of serious violence. As a partnership, we developed a broader, vision, definition and framework of success measures which also allows a response to the Serious Violence Duty:

“Violence and serious violence includes specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community”.

The specific crime types included in this SNA include **robbery**, **homicide**, **knife crime** and **assault to cause serious harm**.

Cost of violence

The costs of each serious violence offence type in West Yorkshire has been estimated by multiplying the number of recorded crimes between July 2023 and June 2024 by the unit cost of crime provided by the Home Office.

These unit costs have been adjusted to factor in inflation rates since the publication of the [original costs](#) in 2018. Please note this figure of inflation is an estimate that has been calculated using the Bank of England Inflation Calculator.

The overall estimated cost for Serious Violence in West Yorkshire is £1,234,184,658

Homicide	£98,572,227
Other Sexual Offences	£52,086,632
Rape	£206,665,408
Robbery	£48,427,324
Violence with Injury	£478,472,687
Violence without Injury	£349,960,380

TABLE 1 - OVERALL ESTIMATED COST FOR SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN WEST YORKSHIRE



Performance

The Violence Reduction Partnership are measured against three core measures by the Home Office;

- I. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- II. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- III. A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Compared to 2018/19 levels (prior to VRP funding) we have seen a reduction in all but one of the measures. Knife enabled serious violence against those under 25 fell by 13.1% with the change in the last 12 months showing a small increase. Hospital admissions for assaults by a sharp object (again, against those under 25) remained at similar levels to previous years.

Whilst non-domestic homicides overall have reduced since funding began, there was a reduction in victims over 25 paired with an increase in victims under 25. This core measure shows a 33% increase but when looking at numbers this is an increase from 3 to 4.

Crime Measures	2018/19	2022/23	2023/24	Change on last year	Change on 2018/19
Knife-enabled serious violence	2595	2289	2284	-0.2%	-12.0%
with victim aged under 25	982	837	853	1.9%	-13.1%
Non-domestic homicides	25	21	19	-9.5%	-24.0%
knife-enabled with victim under 25	3	4	4	0.0%	33.3%

Hospital Admissions for assaults by a sharp object (ages 0 – 25)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change on last year	Change on 2019
West Yorkshire Hospitals	70	70	80	70	70	0%	0%
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	45	45	50	45	50		
Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust	10	15	10	10	10		
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10	10	15	10	10		
Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	5	0	5	5	0		
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	0		

TABLE 2 - HOME OFFICE MEASURES

Please note, hospital admissions data has been rounded to the nearest 5 and is shown for all West Yorkshire hospitals – the adjacent table shows the proportion of the total for each Trust but is based on rounded numbers.

An overview of all violent crime can be found in the following table, which shows a breakdown of violent crime in the 12 months ending June 2024, and how those numbers compare to both the previous year and the last year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Offences	Recorded crime Jul-23 to Jun-24	Per 1,000 population	Non-recent	DA	Victim under 25	Victim under 18	Knife enabled	Public space	Recorded crime change on previous 12 months	Recorded crime change on 2018/19
Violence against the person	116,450	49.52	5.2%	34.9%	28.9%	16.3%	1.2%	33.1%	-11.9%	7.5%
Homicide	23	0.01	0.0%	17.4%	26.1%	8.7%	56.5%	60.0%	-20.7%	-17.9%
Violence with injury	25,569	10.87	2.6%	35.1%	30.9%	17.3%	3.8%	47.5%	-11.5%	-10.6%
Attempted murder	33	0.01	3.0%	33.3%	21.2%	3.0%	42.4%	53.8%	-2.9%	0.0%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	1,960	0.83	3.3%	25.4%	27.8%	12.6%	23.4%	58.6%	-2.0%	1.7%
Violence without injury	44,310	18.84	2.9%	29.7%	33.8%	22.6%	0.8%	40.0%	-8.4%	4.8%
Stalking and harassment	46,386	19.73	8.9%	39.8%	23.1%	9.7%	0.0%	18.4%	-15.4%	24.2%
Robbery	3,212	1.37	0.5%	3.3%	41.3%	23.6%	27.6%	86.5%	2.2%	-17.5%
Robbery of business property	424	0.18	0.0%	0.2%	20.5%	1.9%	31.6%	96.0%	15.2%	-6.2%
Robbery of personal property	2,788	1.19	0.5%	3.8%	44.4%	26.9%	26.9%	85.0%	0.5%	-19.0%
Sexual offences	9,940	4.23	26.7%	23.7%	58.0%	44.3%	0.5%	25.1%	5.9%	15.6%
Rape	3,942	1.68	35.9%	42.5%	50.1%	32.4%	1.0%	15.8%	11.7%	14.6%
Other sexual offences	5,998	2.55	20.7%	11.4%	63.2%	52.1%	0.2%	31.2%	2.5%	16.3%
Arson	1,294	0.55	0.3%	5.4%	6.6%	0.9%	0.0%	57.6%	-16.7%	-28.1%
Arson endangering life	190	0.08	0.0%	13.7%	8.9%	2.6%	0.0%	21.6%	0.0%	-22.4%
Possession of weapons	2,244	0.95	1.0%	2.8%	10.9%	6.7%	0.2%	70.3%	-6.3%	-4.6%
Knife crime	2,303	0.98	1.7%	22.1%	37.3%	20.1%	100.0%	59.2%	-0.4%	-11.7%
Robbery of business property	134	0.06	0.0%	0.7%	23.1%	3.7%	100.0%	99.1%	28.8%	-23.4%
Robbery of personal property	751	0.32	0.1%	1.1%	57.5%	35.2%	100.0%	86.7%	10.8%	-3.7%
Homicide	13	0.01	0.0%	30.8%	30.8%	7.7%	100.0%	55.6%	-7.1%	62.5%
Attempted murder	14	0.01	0.0%	50.0%	14.3%	0.0%	100.0%	38.5%	-22.2%	55.6%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	459	0.20	2.0%	22.9%	30.5%	13.7%	100.0%	53.5%	0.4%	-14.8%
Assault with injury	488	0.21	1.8%	41.4%	27.3%	13.7%	100.0%	32.7%	-13.2%	-15.1%
Threats to kill	351	0.15	2.3%	43.6%	23.1%	11.4%	100.0%	27.5%	-12.0%	-20.8%
Firearms crime (serious violence)	325	0.14	3.1%	5.5%	37.2%	23.1%	0.0%	74.3%	-23.0%	9.8%
Serious violence	6,819	2.90	2.2%	15.8%	34.0%	18.2%	33.5%	68.5%	-2.1%	-9.1%

TABLE 3 - OVERVIEW OF ALL VIOLENT CRIME

The last year saw a decrease in the numbers of violence against the person offences (-11.9%), but this was a 7.5% increase on the 2018/19 baseline.

Changes to crime recording during this time have contributed to this reduction, but it is unlikely to have impacted on numbers of the most serious offences. Prior to May 2023, conduct crimes such as stalking and harassment tended to be recorded in addition to the principal crime; from May 2023 onwards conduct crimes, if they are considered to be the more impactful offence on the victim, are now recorded as the principal offence. The result is that offences that often occur alongside a conduct crime (such as malicious communications along with stalking and harassment) will no longer be recorded, leading to a reduction in the number of some of the other offences.

Robbery increased in the last year (2.2%) but remained at lower levels than 2018/19. Robbery of business property increased in the last year at a greater rate than offences involving personal property. Where a knife was used during the commission of a robbery, this was down on 2018/19 figures for both business and personal robbery offences, but offence numbers did increase in the last year.

Overall knife crime was lower than last year (-0.4%) and 2018/19 (-11.7%). There was a small increase in numbers of assaults with intent to cause serious harm that involved a knife (0.4%) but robbery offences where a knife was used increased by 13.2% on last year, with the greatest increase in robbery of business property (28.8%).

Numbers of serious violence offences involving firearms are lower than last year (-23.0%) but are higher this year than in 2018/19.

There has been a noticeable improvement this year in the data quality issues relating to 'location qualifiers' used to denote the type of place an offence took place at. However, some caution should still be applied to conclusions drawn from the public space flagging.

Whilst the Home Office core measures look to those under 25, we have separately explored violence against children (those under 18) – the following table shows a breakdown in offences with a victim who was aged under 18. Increases in some offence types involving small numbers have resulted in large percentage increases, such as robbery of business property and arson.

Offences against children	Recorded crime Jul-23 to Jun-24	Non-recent	DA	Knife enabled	Public space	Recorded crime change on previous 12 months	Recorded crime change on 2018/19
Violence against the person	18,966	7.1%	10.5%	0.9%	33.0%	-10.7%	19.7%
Homicide	2	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%	-60.0%	0.0%
Violence with injury	4,418	3.7%	10.5%	3.0%	54.5%	-15.3%	-16.9%
Attempted murder	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		-91.7%	-80.0%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	247	4.9%	9.7%	25.5%	60.4%	-2.8%	15.4%
Violence without injury	10,024	7.9%	9.2%	0.4%	28.7%	-3.1%	46.5%
Stalking and harassment	4,506	8.5%	13.2%	0.1%	20.0%	-20.4%	22.3%
Robbery	759	0.4%	0.3%	35.4%	97.1%	2.8%	16.4%
Robbery of business property	8	0.0%	0.0%	62.5%	100.0%	700.0%	300.0%
Robbery of personal property	751	0.4%	0.3%	35.2%	97.1%	1.9%	15.5%
Sexual offences	4,404	34.3%	8.7%	0.3%	20.9%	-6.1%	-3.4%
Rape	1,278	57.4%	17.1%	0.5%	19.7%	-0.7%	-12.3%
Other sexual offences	3,126	24.9%	5.2%	0.3%	21.4%	-8.1%	0.8%
Arson	11	0.0%	18.2%	0.0%	75.0%	83.3%	-15.4%
Arson endangering life	5	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	50.0%	150.0%	-16.7%
Possession of weapons	150	0.7%	2.7%	0.0%	78.9%	-10.2%	-8.5%
Knife crime	464	1.9%	4.1%	100.0%	79.8%	5.7%	9.2%
Robbery of business property	5	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Robbery of personal property	264	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	98.3%	21.1%	36.1%
Homicide	1	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-66.7%	0.0%
Attempted murder	0			100.0%		-100.0%	-100.0%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	63	3.2%	3.2%	100.0%	66.7%	-6.0%	8.6%
Assault with injury	67	0.0%	9.0%	100.0%	46.6%	-27.2%	-35.6%
Threats to kill	40	7.5%	22.5%	100.0%	41.9%	-2.4%	-16.7%
Firearms crime (serious violence)	75	2.7%	2.7%	5.3%	82.5%	-21.9%	-2.6%
Serious violence	1,244	2.3%	3.9%	36.9%	83.0%	-0.1%	11.4%

TABLE 4 - OVERVIEW OF OFFENCES WITH A VICTIM UNDER 18

This year we have also separately explored violent crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls (VAWG) – the following table shows a breakdown in offences and the proportion where women and girls were victims. While overall violence against the person offences decreased, many of the crime types which disproportionately affect women and girls such as sexual offences and stalking and harassment have increased. Non-recent offences are those that have been reported more than a year after they occurred.

VAWG Offences	All recorded crime Jul23-Jun24	Non - recent	Crimes with female victim	Crimes with female victim aged under 18	Crimes with a female victim - per 1,000 female population	DA	DA - crimes with a female victim	Public space	Cyber-enabled	Recorded crime change on previous 12 months	Recorded crime change on 2018/19
Violence against the person	116450	5.2%	54.9%	7.7%	52.83	34.9%	45.6%	33.1%	4.2%	-11.9%	7.5%
Female genital mutilation	9	66.7%	100.0%	88.9%	0.01					-18.2%	-35.7%
Forced marriage offences	45	17.8%	84.1%	27.3%	0.03					9.8%	15.4%
Intentional strangulation (from 2022/23)	1776	7.0%	81.4%	5.0%	1.20	84.1%	89.8%	14.1%	0.1%	20.7%	
Stalking and harassment	46386	8.9%	65.0%	5.7%	24.89	39.8%	45.9%	18.4%	10.3%	-15.4%	24.2%
Controlling or coercive behaviour	3432	29.0%	82.3%	3.9%	2.35	99.3%	99.4%	3.0%	0.6%	-3.8%	66.9%
Harassment	26805	8.2%	60.8%	6.4%	13.42	16.5%	19.1%	23.3%	9.1%	15.3%	62.8%
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	969	9.1%	52.0%	5.8%	0.42	3.3%	4.4%	37.2%	5.9%	39.2%	123.8%
Stalking	9659	7.8%	75.8%	2.8%	6.09	92.4%	91.7%	13.9%	12.1%	22.7%	826.1%
Malicious communications	5521	1.4%	57.7%	8.6%	2.62	30.4%	35.0%	6.3%	19.5%	-71.6%	-68.2%
Sexual offences	9940	26.7%	81.8%	36.8%	6.37	23.7%	28.2%	25.1%	8.5%	5.9%	15.6%
Rape	3942	35.9%	90.1%	28.4%	2.92	42.5%	45.8%	15.9%	0.7%	11.7%	14.6%
Other sexual offences	5998	20.7%	75.9%	42.8%	3.44	11.4%	13.2%	31.2%	13.7%	2.5%	16.3%
Abuse of children through sexual exploitation	115	57.4%	68.3%	68.3%	0.04	1.7%	4.7%	11.6%	44.3%	5.5%	38.6%
Sexual grooming	323	6.8%	73.5%	68.2%	0.13	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	43.3%	29.2%	22.3%
Exposure & Voyeurism	455	5.7%	79.1%	13.4%	0.26	9.9%	13.1%	61.0%	4.0%	11.0%	30.7%
Cyber flashing (from 2023/24)	25	8.0%	68.0%	8.0%	0.01	4.0%	5.9%	20.0%	100.0%		
Indecent Images of Children offences (IIOC)	2292	9.5%	62.3%	56.9%	0.38	1.0%	3.8%		54.0%	-5.1%	56.3%
Public Order	28692	0.8%	49.2%	3.5%	10.52	8.5%	13.7%	73.9%		-29.6%	-3.9%
Other offences against the State or public order	3490	3.5%	79.6%	3.7%	0.88	24.8%	62.9%	57.0%		-0.8%	-6.5%
Act of Outraging Public Decency	275	1.5%	70.1%	9.8%	0.11	0.0%	0.0%	82.4%		-10.1%	-17.2%

TABLE 5 – OVERVIEW OF OFFENCES THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT WOMEN & GIRLS

The Violence Reduction Partnership applies a Child First lens to our approach – treating ‘children as children’. Understanding the data relating to children specifically allows us to begin to better understand their needs as the foundation for how children should be understood, treated, and supported.

When considering your response to this needs assessment we encourage you to make use of our [Child First Framework](#). This framework was co-produced with over 450 children from across West Yorkshire and outlines how they think Child First should be implemented effectively.

This includes:

- Allowing children to help shape strategic direction
- Creating a culture of meaningful engagement with children
- Closing the feedback loop
- Tips to make engagement successful

This can be factored into your response plans, with specific sections considering when and how children will be involved at each phase. If this is something you would like support with, please get in touch with the VRP Knowledge Hub.

Violence against the person offences with a child victim decreased by 10.7% in the last year, across all offence groups. The increasing trend in violence against children that was reported last year did not continue.

However, knife crime committed against children did increase this year, by 5.7% compared to a small reduction in overall knife crime

numbers. The increase was entirely in robberies where a knife was used, with reductions being seen in all other knife-crime offence categories.

Numbers of robbery offences against children were at the highest level in over 5 years, 16.4% higher than in 2018/19.

Robberies of personal property against children increased by 1.9% last year, but offences where a knife was used increased by 21.1%.

There was an increase in robberies of business property where the victim was a child this year. Numbers increased from 1 last year, and 2 in 2018/19, to 8 this year - 5 of these offences involved the use of a knife.



Bradford

Bradford boasts a rich industrial heritage and diverse cultural tapestry. From the historic Saltaire Village to the bustling City Park, this area seamlessly blends tradition with modernity, offering a vibrant community and a thriving economy. This year Bradford takes on the prestigious title of UK City of Culture 2025.

From 2011 to 2021, the population size increased by 5% to 546,400. 51% of the population in Bradford are female and 49% are male, a slight increase in the percentage of female residents since the 2011 census. There has been a 20% increase in people aged 65 years and over, a 2% increase in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 2% in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Bradford, highlighting some of our key observations:

- There was a decline in robbery offences last year, including those that involved use of a knife.
- Most victims of robbery were adult males. Where robberies involved use of a knife, almost half of the victims were young men and boys aged under 25.
- The proportion of business robberies that involved theft of food items increased.
- Knife crimes committed by children decreased in the last year, whereas those with a child victim increased.
- Most victims of knife crime were aged over 25 and male. For children who were victims, the majority were aged over 14.
- Assaults with intent to cause serious harm have been on an upward trend over the last 5 years, and numbers increased again last year.
- 24% of assaults with intent to cause serious harm were DA related, however the number and proportion of assaults that were DA reduced in the last year.

- Number of homicides and attempted murders reduced this year.
- Sexual offences increased in the last year, in particular recent rape offences. Most victims of rape were women aged 18 and over and 43% of recent rapes were DA. 17% of rape victims were girls aged under 18.
- Recent rape offences against male victims increased by 43% in the last year.
- Over half of adult offenders in violent crime were recorded as being unemployed.
- The proportion of children who offended in serious violence offences decreased compared to previous years. Only 1 in every 1,000 children living in Bradford committed violent crime; this was 1 in every 10,000 for serious violence and 3 in every 10,000 for weapons possession.
- When children did commit violent crime, this started as young as 11 and peaked at the age of 15. This suggests there should be a focus on prevention prior to children moving to secondary school.
- Key Location MSOAs overall are Keighley Central & East, Keighley Oakworth Road & West Lane, Shipley Town, Ravenscliffe, Manningham & Lister Park, Girdlington, Fairweather Green, Shearbridge & University, Broomfields & East Bowling, Great Horton & Brackenhill, Canterbury, Holme Wood, Bowling Park, Barkerend West & Little Germany and Central Bradford.
- Keighley Oakworth Road & West Lane, Shearbridge & University and Central Bradford are locations of concern both on a district and West Yorkshire wide level.



Calderdale

Calderdale, characterised by its picturesque landscapes and charming market towns, is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. With the vibrant Halifax Piece Hall and the rolling hills of the South Pennines, Calderdale is a perfect blend of natural beauty and cultural richness.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 1.4% to 206,600. 51% of the population in Calderdale are female and 49% are male, little change since the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 21% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 3% decrease in those aged 15 to 64 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Calderdale, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Robbery offences increased in the last year, including those that involved use of a knife.
- Most victims of robbery were adult males.
- Almost half of the victims of knife-enabled robberies were young men and boys aged under 25.
- The proportion of business robberies that involved theft of food items increased.
- The number of knife crime offences in Calderdale decreased overall in the last year and there has been little change in numbers of knife crimes involving children.
- Most victims of knife crime were aged over 25 and male, however the number of victims aged under 25 increased slightly this year.
- There has been a decreasing trend in numbers of assaults with intent to cause serious harm over the past 2 years – this year the proportion of assaults that were knife enabled was at the lowest level for 5 years.
- The proportion of assaults with intent to cause serious harm with younger victims (aged under 25) also reduced in the last year. Most victims of these assaults were over 25. 11% had a child victim.
- However, 30% of assaults with intent to cause serious harm were domestic abuse related, and numbers of these offences increased by 25%.
- There were 3 homicides and 3 attempted murders in the last year.
- Sexual offences increased in the last 12 months, including rape offences. Most victims of rape offences were women aged 18 and over, and 44% of rape offences were DA. 24% of rape victims were girls aged under 18.
- Over half of adult offenders in violent crime were recorded as being unemployed.
- The proportion of children who offended in serious violence offences increased compared to previous years – 23% of offenders were aged under 18.
- Only 1 in every 1,000 children living in Calderdale committed violent crime, this was 5 in every 10,000 for assaults with injury and 3 in every 10,000 for serious violence. 15 was a key age for children committing assaults with injury.
- When children did commit violent crime, this started as young as the age of 10. This suggests there should be a focus on prevention prior to children moving to secondary school.
- Key location MSOAs overall are Mixenden, Wheatley & Ovenden West, Ovenden East, Mytholmroyd & Cragg Vale, Central Halifax & Boothtown, Pellon West & Highroad Well, Pellon East Brighouse and Elland.
- Ovenden East and Central Halifax & Boothtown are locations of concern both on a district and West Yorkshire wide level.



Kirklees

Home to the iconic Huddersfield and the stunning Colne Valley, Kirklees is a cultural hub and an educational centre. With a mix of urban and rural landscapes, it provides a dynamic setting for creativity and learning, attracting both residents and visitors alike.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 3% to 433,400. 51% of the population in Kirklees are female and 49% are male, little change since the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 20% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 1% decrease in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a 1.1% increase in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Kirklees, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Robbery offences increased in the last year, including those that involved use of a knife.
- Most victims of robbery were adult males. 65% were men aged over 18 and 52% were aged 25 or over.
- The proportion of younger victims increased when robberies were knife-enabled – 16% were boys aged under 18.
- The proportion of business robberies that involved theft of food items increased.
- The number of knife crime offences remained similar to last year.
- Knife crimes involving children as either the victim or the offender decreased in the last year.
- Most victims of knife crime were aged over 25 and male.
- There was a decline in assaults with intent to cause serious harm offences in the last year, with numbers being the lowest in 5 years.
- The proportion of assaults with intent to cause serious harm that involved a knife also reduced in the last year and were at the lowest level for the past 5 years.

- There was also a reduction in number of assaults with intent to cause serious harm that were domestic related.
- Most victims of assaults with intent to cause serious harm were over 25 - 10% of crimes had a child victim
- Number of homicides and attempted murders decreased in the last year.
- Sexual offences increased in the last 12 months, in particular recent rape offences.
- Most victims of rape offences were women aged 18 and over, and 43% of recent rape offences were DA. 22% of rape victims were girls aged under 18.
- Over half of adult offenders in violent crime were recorded as being unemployed.
- The proportion of children who offended in serious violence offences decreased compared to previous years - only 1 in every 1,000 children living in Kirklees have committed violent crime.
- When children did commit violent crime, this started as young as 13.
- Key Location MSOAs overall are Birstall, Batley Central, Heckmondwike North, Dewsbury Moor Upper, Dewsbury Central & Westborough, Earlsheaton & Chickenley, Dewsbury Moor Lower & Westtown, Ravensthorpe, Huddersfield Leeds Road & Fartown, Birkby, Rawthorpe, Paddock & Greenhead, Aspley, Longley & University and Primrose Hill, Newsome & Berry Brow.
- Huddersfield Leeds Road & Fartown and Paddock & Greenhead are locations of concern both on a district and West Yorkshire wide level.



Leeds

As a dynamic metropolis, Leeds is a vibrant hub of commerce, culture, and innovation. From the historic Leeds Dock to the bustling city centre, this cosmopolitan area embraces diversity and progress, offering an active lifestyle and a thriving business environment.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 8% to 812,000. 51% of the population in Leeds are female and 49% are male, little change from the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 16% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 5% increase in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a 12% increase in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Leeds, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Robbery offences increased in the last year, including those that involved use of a knife. Most victims were adult males.
- Half of the victims of robberies involving use of a knife were young men and boys aged under 25.
- 17 was a key age for robbery offenders.
- The proportion of business robberies that involved theft of food items increased this year.
- The number of knife crime offences did not change significantly in the last year - numbers of DA crimes that involved use of a knife decreased.
- Most victims of knife crime were aged over 25 and male.
- Knife crimes committed by children decreased in the last year, whereas those where children were victims increased.
- There was a decline in assaults with intent to cause serious harm in the last year, including those that were domestic related.
- The proportion of assaults with intent to cause serious harm that involved use of a knife remained similar to last year.
- Most victims of assault with intent to cause serious harm were over 25, although there has been an increase in the numbers of these assaults where the victim was a child.
- Most children who were victims of assaults with intent to cause serious harm were aged between 14 and 17 and the majority were male.

- Number of homicides reduced in the last year, whereas numbers of attempted murders increased.
- Sexual offences increased in the last year, including recent rape offences. Most victims of rape offences were women aged 18 and over, and 36% of recent rape offences were DA. 17% of rape victims were girls aged under 18.
- Numbers of recent rape offences against male victims increased by 12% in the last year.
- Over half of adult offenders of violent crime were recorded as being unemployed.
- The proportion of children who offended in serious violence offences decreased compared to previous years. Only 1 in every 1,000 children committed violent crime, this was 3-4 in every 10,000 for assault offences.
- When children did commit violent crime, this started as young as 9 and peaked at the age of 14. This suggests there should be a focus on prevention prior to children moving to secondary school.
- Key Location MSOAs are Hollin Park & Fearnville, Chapel Allerton South & Chapeltown, Harehills North and Harehills South, Woodhouse & Little London, Gipton South & Killingbeck Park, Lincoln Green & St James, Burmantofts, Bramley South & Upper Armley, Armley & New Wortley, Beeston Hill & Hunslet Moor, Middleton Town Street, Middleton Park Avenue, Tingley East & East Ardsley and Leeds City Centre.
- Many of the key locations for Leeds district are also key locations for West Yorkshire as a whole.



Wakefield

With its blend of historic charm and contemporary development, Wakefield is a city on the rise. The striking Hepworth Wakefield and the medieval Sandal Castle showcase its cultural and historical significance, while ongoing regeneration projects contribute to its promising future.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 8% to 353,300. 51% of the population in Wakefield are female and 49% are male, little change since the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 21% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 5% increase in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 11% in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Wakefield, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Numbers of robbery offences declined in the last 12 months, with the exception of knife-enabled robberies which increased. Most victims of robbery were adult males.
- With knife-enabled robberies the proportion of younger victims increased.
- The proportion of business robberies that involved theft of food items increased.
- The number of knife crime offences increased in the last 12 months, including those that were domestic related, and those involving children either as victim or offender.
- Most victims of knife crime were aged over 25 and male.
- There has been an increasing trend in assaults with intent to cause serious harm over the last 5 years, with numbers increasing again this year. The number of assaults with intent to cause serious harm that were knife enabled has increased by 46% in the last 12 months.
- Domestic related assaults with intent to cause serious harm also increased, and at a greater rate than for non-domestic assaults.
- Most victims of assault with intent to cause serious harm were over 25 - 9% of crimes had a child victim.
- There were 2 homicide offences and 2 attempted murders in the last 12 months.
- The number of serious violence offences involving a firearm increased in Wakefield. This is in contrast to other areas of West Yorkshire where offences have decreased.
- Sexual offences have increased in the last 12 months, in particular recent rape offences.
- Most victims of rape offences were women aged 18 and over, and 45% of recent rape offences were DA. 27% of rape victims were girls aged under 18.
- Over half of adult offenders in serious violence offences were recorded as being unemployed.
- The proportion of children who offended in serious violence offences increased compared to previous years.
- Only 1 in every 1,000 children living in Wakefield have committed violent crime. When children did commit violent crime, this started as young as 11 with a key age of 14 across all crimes. This suggests there should be a focus on prevention prior to children moving to secondary school
- Key Location MSOAs are Castleford Town, Castleford West, Pontefract North West, Normanton West, Wakefield Central, Wakefield St John's, Eastmoor, Alverthorpe & Flanshaw, Lupset, Featherstone, Thornes, Agbrigg & Belle Isle and Moorthorpe.
- Wakefield Central, Thornes and Agbrigg & Belle Isle are locations of concern both on a district and a West Yorkshire wide level.



Community Voice

Over the summer, a comprehensive community engagement program was conducted across West Yorkshire, involving 6,062 participants. Engagement methods included in-person events, smaller group discussions, and surveys. The aim was to gather community perspectives on serious violence and safety.

Defining Serious Violence

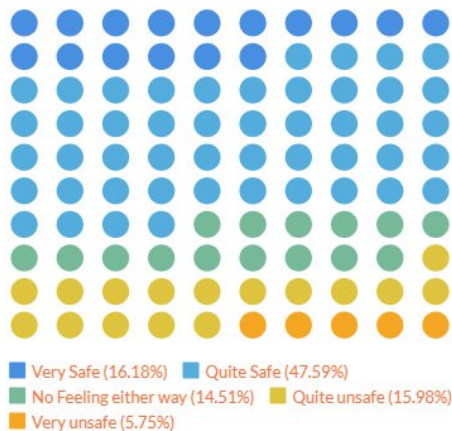
Respondents were asked to define serious violence, with 81% agreeing with the provided definition:

"specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community."

Additional concerns highlighted including sexual violence, fear, and threats.

Feelings of Safety

64% of respondents reported feeling either very safe or quite safe in their local areas:



- A visible police presence was linked to increased feelings of safety.
- Strong community ties contributed to a sense of safety.
- Well-lit and clean areas were seen as safer.

62% of respondents felt less safe at night due to several reasons:

- Reduced visibility increased vulnerability.
- Fewer people around at night heightened feelings of isolation.
- Higher perceived crime rates at night.
- Women felt more vulnerable at night due to fear of gender-based violence.

Effect of Violence

60% of respondents felt violence affected their local area, leading to:

- **Feeling unsafe:** Making lifestyle changes, avoiding certain areas or not going out at night.
- **Community Impact:** Disrupted community cohesion and trust
- **Environment:** Community spaces impacted by vandalism, graffiti and antisocial behaviour
"Local parks are often vandalised, deterring young kids."
- **Economic Impact:** Decreased foot traffic and business closures.
- **Mental wellbeing:** Increased feelings of anxiety and stress.

Causes of Violence

Respondents identified several causes of violence:

- **Economic Factors:** Poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities.
- **Community Assets:** Lack of facilities and activities for children and young people.
- **Substance Abuse:** Drug and alcohol abuse.
- **Mental Health:** Insufficient access to mental health services.
- **Policing & Justice:** Lack of police presence and deterrence
- **Social media:** Exposure to violence through media

What should be done to prevent violence?

- **Policing & Justice:** Greater, more visible police presence, coupled with better communication and engagement between the police and local residents. Stricter response from justice system.
- **Community Engagement:** More community initiatives and support services to build a sense of community
- **Youth Services:** Providing more activities and services for young people. Creating more youth clubs, sports facilities, and educational programs.
- **Education:** Promoting respect and understanding through education, as well as life skills training.
- **Environmental Improvements:** Better lighting and security measures.
- **Support services:** Additional services to address needs such as counselling, mental health services, victim support and drug and alcohol services.

Challenges in Tackling Violence

Respondents recognise the need for a multifaceted approach that includes funding, partnership working, community engagement, education, and addressing the underlying social and economic issues. Challenges identified are:

- **Lack of Resources:** Inadequate funding to deliver the services needed.
- **Policing:** Lack of police presence and sufficient response.
- **Fear and Under-reporting:** Fear of retaliation and lack of trust in authorities.
- **Community Cohesion:** Lack of community spirit and support networks.
- **Social and Economic Factors:** High levels of deprivation and social inequality.

Missing Services and Initiatives

A number of respondents didn't know what services were in their areas to consider what the gaps were.

Respondents highlighted the need for:

- **Youth Centres:** More youth clubs and activities.
- **Community Infrastructure:** Sports facilities and safe spaces alongside local events to bring the community together and opportunities to engage on the issues that matter to them.
- **Support Services:** Better mental health and addiction support.
- **Education and Awareness:** Programs to educate about violence prevention.

Conclusion

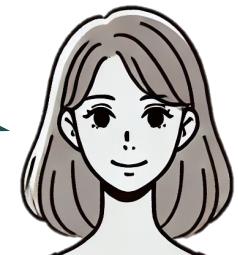
The findings from community engagement underscore the need for a multi-faceted approach to violence reduction in West Yorkshire.

Fostering stronger community ties and enhancing police visibility are seen by communities as essential to improving public safety.

Addressing the influential factors linked to violence through increased provision for children and young people, support services, and educational initiatives are also seen as vital.

Improving environmental design and infrastructure may further deter criminal activity and enhance community well-being.

"more safe places like hubs, more detached workers, people need to know they can talk to trusted adults and get to know more nice people around"



Influential factors

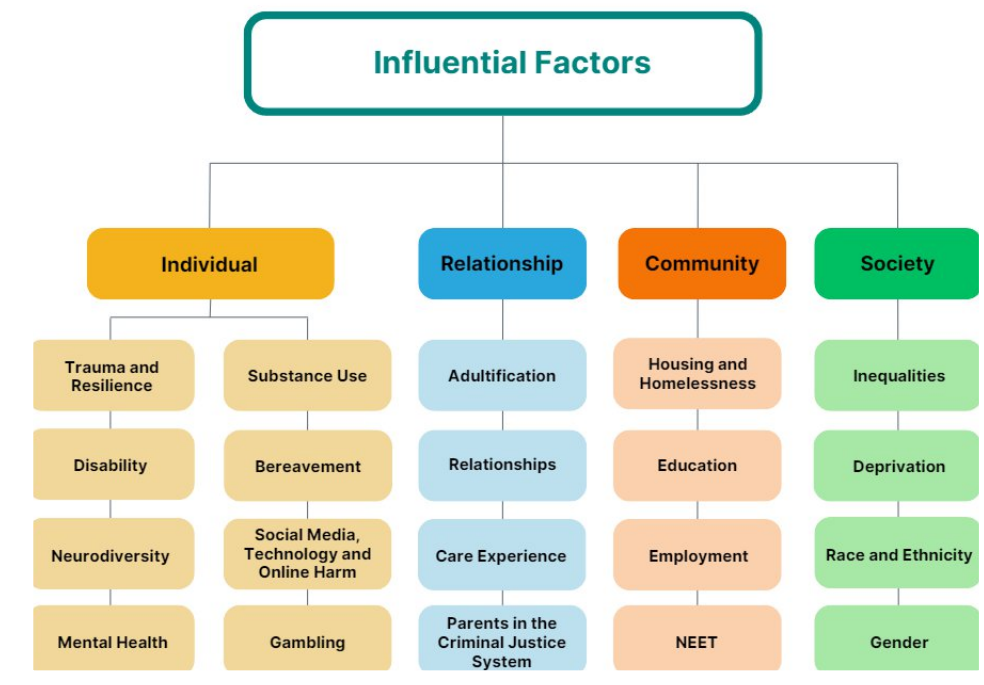
A crucial part of reducing violence, helping communities stay safe as well as improving health and wellbeing is understanding influential factors. At its most fundamental level, the VRP aims to reduce the frequency and intensity of violence risk factors whilst promoting protective factors. We refer to the influential factors for violence, these can also be referred to as risk and protective factors. Risk factors are associated with a higher likelihood of engaging with or experiencing violence and exploitation. Protective factors are the inverse, whereby they can reduce the likelihood of engaging with or experiencing violence and exploitation.

To supplement this SNA, we have produced a produced an evidence synthesis which aims to offer insight and increase understanding of factors influencing violence by:

- collating and reviewing appropriate evidence,
- providing a contextual summary of several risk and protective factors,
- highlighting knowledge gaps and,
- offering recommendations for provision or future research, where appropriate.

Some risk and protective factors can be conceptualised as being on different ends of the same continuum, for example unemployment has been identified as a risk factor for violence and conversely quality employment may be a protective factor against violence. It is important to note that neither risk or protective factors directly cause or prevent violence. Having a risk factor does not predict involvement in violence and it is not a predisposition, as such we refer to these collectively as influential factors for violence.

The VRP use the four-level socio-ecological model (individual, relationship, community, and societal) to better understand violence and the effect of potential prevention strategies. It allows an understanding of the range of factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence. The ecological model emphasises that single risk factors do not directly cause violence, instead it is the interaction amongst different risk factors that influences the level of risk.



Key Findings

- Numbers of violence against the person offences reduced by almost 12% in the last year, and this was seen across all districts. Changes to crime recording rules have contributed to the reduction but are unlikely to have affected numbers of the most serious violence offences.
- The increasing trend in violence against children that was reported in the last Needs Assessment has not continued this year - numbers of violence against the person offences where the victim was a child also reduced by a similar percentage.
- Both knife crime and serious violence reduced slightly in the last year, and both were lower than the baseline in 2018/19.
- The main exceptions to the decrease in violent crime over the last year were the increases in robbery offences and sexual violence.
- Increases were predominantly in robbery of business property, robberies involving use of a knife and rape offences.
- There were some local variances: robbery offences, including those involving knives, increased in Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds. In Wakefield overall robbery numbers reduced, but numbers that involved the use of a knife increased. In Bradford all types of robbery offences reduced in number over the last year.
- While knife crime overall reduced this year, knife crime committed against children increased in Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield.
- Serious violence involving firearms decreased this year following the increase reported last year linked to gel guns. The exception is Wakefield which has seen an increase in firearms related serious violence this year, both compared to last year and to the baseline in 2018/19. Most offences involved bb guns and air weapons and resulted in no or minor injury.
- Recorded sexual crime increased last year, both in relation to the previous year and to the baseline in 2018/19. Numbers of sexual offences against children reduced in the same period.
- Recorded rape offences usually include a large proportion of non-recent crimes – offences that occurred more than a year before being reported (36% in the last year). Numbers of non-recent crimes have remained fairly consistent over the last 5 years, but numbers of recent offences are showing an increasing trend.
- This is true for most districts except Calderdale, where although there have been increases in both recent and non-recent rape offences this year, the trend is downwards for both over the last 5 years.
- Although numbers of rape offences against male victims are small, recent offences with a male victim increased at a greater rate than for those against female victims this year in Bradford and Leeds.
- There was little change to number of assaults with intent to cause serious harm in the last year, with a small decrease of -2% on last year, and a small increase of 1.7% on the baseline in 2018/19. However, there were local exceptions.
- In Wakefield assaults with intent to cause serious harm increased, including those involving a knife, and those that were DA related.
- In Bradford non-domestic assaults with intent to cause serious harm increased, whereas in Calderdale it was only DA related assaults with intent to cause serious harm that increased.
- Around half of adult offenders in violent crime were recorded as being unemployed.
- Most people who committed violent crime were adult males; the proportion of men offending increased with the more serious offences