

West Yorkshire Response Strategy Refresh 2025

Serious Violence: West Yorkshire Strategy for Change

Delivered by



**West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority**

**Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire**

Foreword

The work of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is intrinsically linked to the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire 2024-2028 and plays a crucial role.

This is why the VRP Response Strategy Refresh 2025 is such an important tool, as it outlines the framework for preventing and reducing serious violence, putting our partnership approach in motion.

Informed by the evidence base of the VRP Needs Assessment, it offers a comprehensive understanding of the issues, local needs and how we will collectively respond to them.

As you will see, this document identifies a number of key objectives and priorities, setting out, how they will be achieved. Each chime closely with my overall goal as Mayor of West Yorkshire.

It means that the interventions which we support across our communities can be planned over an extended period, becoming more established and engrained in our neighbourhoods.

You'll read how 'trauma informed' and 'child first' approaches are fundamental to everything we do, and this has to be embedded and interwoven throughout our multi-agency response.

We cannot make wholesale change in isolation, and it is vital that we use our combined strength to drive change.

With the Serious Violence Duty now fully embedded here in West Yorkshire, services are working together to a greater extent, sharing key information, intelligence, knowledge, and data, whilst capturing the views of local people.

It is cementing that relationship between 'people and power,' to change cultures and behaviours, which will ultimately save lives.

By jointly agreeing our response and bolstering our partnership links, we can be more informed in tackling the root causes of serious violence.

In adopting this strategy and embracing its principles, it will undoubtedly lead to lasting change, ensuring our county remains safe, just, and inclusive.

Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin



Bradford

The effects of violence extend far beyond the immediate victims and perpetrators. It can damage families, disrupt communities, and create a climate of fear and insecurity in neighbourhoods. Whether this is violence in the home or in the community, it is a violation of basic human rights and dignity. Witnessing or experiencing violence damages children and violence will often breed more violence. This may be immediate or much later – often carried out by those that have been victims of violence themselves and who carry the trauma and resentment of their own damaging experiences.

Responding to violence is an essential component of neighbourhood renewal and should involve the full partnership spectrum including educating and supporting children throughout their school journey.

Councillor Kamran Hussain, Chair of Safer Bradford

Calderdale

Calderdale's Community Safety Partnership welcomes and supports the Response Strategy to Serious Violence across West Yorkshire. The comprehensive plan is crucial for addressing the root causes of violence in our communities, and it represents a significant step forward in ensuring safety of our residents.

The approach set out will add value to the work of the Community Safety Partnership in delivering better outcomes for communities. It aims to reduce serious violence with robust enforcement, whilst also taking into account influential factors as to why people commit serious violence in the first instance. Ensuring that, we are able as a partnership to respond with preventative measures in the hope of reducing serious violence occurrences.

Councillor Danielle Durrans, Calderdale Community Safety Partnership

Kirklees

As Chair of the Kirklees Communities Board, I reaffirm our unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our local communities. Everyone has the right to feel, and be, safe.

Serious violence poses a significant threat to the peace and security of neighbourhoods across the country. Here in Kirklees, we are dedicated to addressing this complex issue through collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships. Our approach is rooted in the belief that community safety is a shared responsibility. By working closely with local law enforcement, community leaders and residents, we aim to create a safer environment for everyone.

Councillor Amanda Pinnock, Chair of Kirklees Communities Board

Leeds

Serious violence has had a major impact on the lives of many people locally and nationally. Communities across Leeds have been touched by its devastating effects. The violence affecting our communities has many forms, including the drastic and life changing effects of knife crime, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. These are just some of the symptoms affecting young people and communities in Leeds, and we must acknowledge there are many forms of community harm which remain hidden.

The Safer Leeds executive and that of the City Council remain fully committed to tackling all forms of violence and welcome the opportunity under the new duty to collaborate to strengthen our collective response to violence of all forms. This will be supported by education, early intervention and taking a long-term trauma-informed approach to reducing violence in Leeds.

Councillor Mary Harland, Executive Member for Communities and Community Safety

Wakefield

Wakefield Safer Together Partnership (CSP) hopes the Serious Violence Strategy provides a road map for community safety over the coming years. Wakefield has never been a safer place to live, with much progress already having been made in reducing crime and protecting those in our communities who are vulnerable. But there is still more we can do.

The Wakefield Safer Together Partnership, along with partners, colleagues and stakeholders are committed to delivering on the strategy, which will help to deliver a safer and more confident district, in which we can all live, work and enjoy.

Councillor Maureen Cummings, Wakefield Community Safety Partnership

The VRP Response Strategy Refresh 2025 has a fundamental role in addressing serious violence across West Yorkshire, helping us to place the right resources in the right places at the right times.

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.

Using insights and evidence from our 'Strategic Needs Assessment' and review of 'Influential Factors', we can better guide our partners and communities through the challenges.

The Serious Violence Duty also has a key role in this, placing legal requirements on key local agencies.

As you will see, this refreshed document sets out how we can work together to identify the issues, using our collective strength to arrive at even stronger outcomes.

We know that we remain in a period of economic uncertainty, with many different factors affecting the levels of serious violence across the county.

We also know that the issues will not simply go away, and we cannot arrest our way out of the problems.

The impacts of serious violence have implications for every aspect of our lives, cutting across critical strands of infrastructure, public services, and our communities.

The Violence Reduction Partnership is therefore uniquely positioned to seek and orchestrate the solutions, but this cannot be achieved in isolation.

Sustainability has to be the golden thread, and it is so crucial that we act as one, in a co-ordinated and considered manner.

Director of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership

Detective Chief Superintendent, Lee Berry



Contents

Foreword.....	2	Change.....	24
Contents	6	Evidence:	24
Introduction.....	7	Our Response.....	25
What is serious violence?.....	7	Accountability.....	25
Definition	7	Who will be accountable?.....	25
Why serious violence.....	7	What will we measure?.....	25
Context.....	7	How we will measure our work.....	26
Local evidence base.....	8	Data Sharing.....	26
Violence Reduction Partnership	8	Appendix 1: Violence Reduction Partnership and Serious Violence Duty Funded Initiatives 2024/2025 Financial Year	27
Serious Violence Duty	9	1. Governance and Legal Compliance.....	34
Cross cutting support.....	9	2. Purpose and Use of Data.....	34
What do we want to achieve?	10	3. Resources and Expertise.....	34
National aims:.....	10	4. Capacity Building for Core Members	34
Our vision	10	5. Measuring Effectiveness.....	35
Our Objectives.....	11		
Our Approach.....	11		
Working together	11		
Evidence informed.....	14		
Trauma informed approach	14		
Child First approach	15		
Whole system approach.....	16		
Sustainability	18		
Community Engagement.....	18		
Needs Assessment.....	19		
Priorities.....	19		
Priority 1: Individual.....	19		
Evidence:	19		
Priority 2: Relationships.....	21		
Evidence:	21		
Priority 3: Community	22		
Priority 4: Society.....	24		
Evidence:	24		
Priority 5: Sustainability and Cultural			

Introduction

This Strategy provides a West Yorkshire framework for preventing and reducing serious violence. Informed by an evidence base, the strategy sets out our understanding of serious violence, local needs and how we will respond to this using a trauma informed approach.

A refresh of our previous annual Serious Violence Response Strategy, this Strategy brings together a more evidenced based, developed, integrated partnership understanding and vision of tackling serious violence. The Response Strategy therefore provides the framework for the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), Serious Violence Duty and that for wider West Yorkshire partners.

What is serious violence?

Definition

The annual [Strategic Needs Assessment \(SNA\) and Influential Factors Evidence Synthesis](#) provides a detailed understanding of serious violence in West Yorkshire. We define serious violence as:

“Violence and serious violence include 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 West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls, organised crime, sexual exploitation, and domestic abuse.

The definition will focus on geographic areas of criminality and specific groups where serious violence, or its threat or impact, is evident; this is children, young adults, women and girls, public places, the night time economy, gangs, and organised crime groups.

Why serious violence

Context

West Yorkshire has a population of 2.35m of which 23% are under 18. A county that consists of 5 metropolitan boroughs; Calderdale, Kirklees and the Cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield, West Yorkshire is a diverse region, with people from a range of ethnicities, lifestyles, and backgrounds, bringing great cultural diversity.

Our Influential Factors for Serious Violence Evidence Synthesis outline the broad social and economic circumstances that together determine the quality of living, health, wellbeing, and the safety of the population. Deprivation and inequalities around these determinants show strong correlations to adversity and trauma and the root causes of serious violence. West Yorkshire has a significant number of areas experiencing disadvantage and this has been growing in recent years.

Reducing inequalities cannot be achieved unless all organisations work together to identify and address these root causes and differences in communities.

Local evidence base

Information exchange, research, and production of annual a West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment, five district profiles and an Influential Factors for Serious Violence evidence review continue to develop our knowledge and understanding of serious violence. We are starting to see some positive outcomes in some crime types and communities from our approach and focus since the first establishment of our Serious Violence Strategy in 2019.

In West Yorkshire over the last year serious violence decreased by 2% compared with the previous 12 months, and numbers remained lower than pre-pandemic levels. The concerning trend highlighted last year that violence against children was increasing at a greater rate than violence against adults did not continue.

We are not however complacent. Although overall serious violence has reduced slightly in the last year, this was set against the increase of 13% in the previous year. While there has been a reduction in many serious violence offences, numbers of robberies have increased and in particular those that were knife-enabled. Some violent crime offences that disproportionately affect women and girls have also increased in the last year, such as sexual offences and stalking and harassment.

There have been fewer homicide offences recorded in the last year, and numbers of domestic homicides have fallen for the first time in 5 years. There have been fewer knife-enabled homicides and attempted murders this year, but numbers were still higher than pre-pandemic levels. Overall, 23 people sadly lost their lives to violence in West Yorkshire. In purely monetary terms, the cost of violence in West Yorkshire was over £1.2 billion.

Violence Reduction Partnership

Serious violence has been identified as a priority across West Yorkshire for a number of years. The national Serious Violence Strategy published in 2018 allocated funding to 18 areas, now 20 areas most affected by serious violence. In 2019 securing this Home Office funding support, we established the West Yorkshire VRP and gained further resources to focus on tackling serious violence.

The VRP over the last six years has been a catalyst for partners to come together to develop our understanding of serious violence and test approaches to respond to the underlying causes, put in place protective factors to reduce incidents and respond where necessary through enforcement. Through VRP commissioning in 2023/24 we worked with organisations providing 54 interventions and supporting 493 young people aged over 25 years and 21,365 children and young adults 24 years and under. We have also trained 274 professionals to support the work. Appendix 1 provides a fuller overview of the VRP funded and wider partner work to tackle serious violence.

In addition to local evaluations undertaken in West Yorkshire to understand ‘what works’ in the context of reducing serious violence, the Home Office appointed Ecorys to undertake a National evaluation of Violence Reduction Activity, the results from the recently published 2022/23 evaluation can be found [here](#).

Serious Violence Duty

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a new Serious Violence Duty as well as amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Duty requires services¹ to work together to share data, intelligence, knowledge, and the views of communities to develop an assessment of the root causes of serious violence as well as impact. In response specified partners are required to develop and implement a Serious Violence Strategy.

We have grasped this opportunity to work together to prevent and stop violence through jointly planning the response to the Duty, reviewing our partnership arrangements to enable synergy and effective partnership working at Place and West Yorkshire regional level and further developing our needs assessments and consultation. This Strategy responds to the requirements of the Duty.

Cross cutting support

The causes and communities affected by serious violence are far reaching and therefore features as a priority across other service and partnership strategies in West Yorkshire. The landscape to tackling the causes as well as impact of serious violence is complex and addressing trauma, adversity and the root causes is a cross-agency response. The VRP, partners and this strategy will strongly align and connect to the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024, West Yorkshire Plan to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and work of the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, district Community Safety Strategies, Health and Wellbeing, Safeguarding Plans and emerging Drug and Alcohol Plans. We continue to drive greater connectivity to maximise the collective approach and opportunities to reducing serious violence and enabling sustainable approaches.

¹ Serious Violence Duty places statutory responsibility upon the following specified partners - Police, Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Integrated Care Boards, Probation and Youth Offending Services

What do we want to achieve?

National aims:

The Home Office outlined three key success measures for VRPs and the Serious Violence Duty specified authorities:

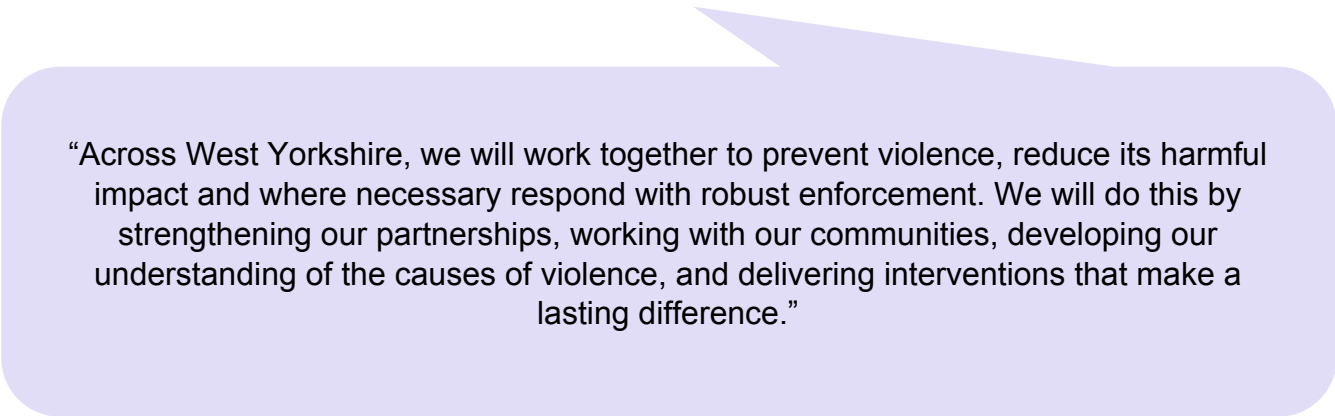
- I. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- II. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- III. A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among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

Beyond these three success measures, the Home Office allowed for flexibility for partners to adopt a broader definition of serious violence. As such, we have utilised the emerging themes identified through our annual Strategic Needs Assessment and developed a broader, vision, definition and success measures which are reflected in this partnership strategy.

Our vision

We will reduce serious violence and fear faced by communities across West Yorkshire.

We knew when developing our vision that making the most effective impact would take longer than the life course of a one-year strategy, so ahead of the 2022/2023 financial year the Violence Reduction Partnership developed and adopted a 3-year vision:



“Across West Yorkshire, we will work together to prevent violence, reduce its harmful impact and where necessary respond with robust enforcement. We will do this by strengthening our partnerships, working with our communities, developing our understanding of the causes of violence, and delivering interventions that make a lasting difference.”

Our Objectives

We have established a sustainable set of objectives to provide the framework for our focus and delivery and will be underpinned by annual priorities for delivery.

Our vision drives our following strategic objectives:

1. Understand the picture of serious violence in West Yorkshire
2. Effectively share data with our partners
3. Intervene early to prevent serious violence in the first place
4. Use evidence of "What works" to tackle the root causes of serious violence
5. Reduce risk and vulnerabilities of individuals, families, and communities to violence
6. Develop protective factors which will prevent and reduce serious violence
7. Enable community and societal responses to serious violence
8. Sustain what works and enhance the system wide response to preventing and tackling serious violence
9. Ensure that all our partners embed the trauma informed approach

Our Approach

Working together

This strategy forms the framework for a partnership response to serious violence. Our approach therefore aims to embed the VRP and Serious Violence Duty through connecting partners, aligning our vision, sharing objectives, and jointly delivering at both region and place. We have a core membership of partners whose roles and responsibilities are central in ensuring a whole system approach. We will continue to identify opportunities to align our vision, objectives, priorities and delivery at both regional level and place. By focusing on the root causes of violence the partnership will support organisations whose responsibilities are to deliver, for example work to tackle VAWG, drugs, county lines, human trafficking, and safeguarding. Key strategic and operational alignment of priorities and delivery across West Yorkshire includes:

The West Yorkshire Mayor Pledges and Police and Crime Plan: The West Yorkshire Mayor placed serious violence as a key priority in her [manifesto pledges](#) and the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2024-2028. This plan also includes a cross-cutting theme focussing on the Safety of Women and Girls, effective response to Men and Boys, Children and Young People and reducing visibility.

In addition, the continued opportunities to align with Serious Organised Crime and Operation Precision to tackle the root causes which lead to involvement in serious organised crime. This includes Operation Jemlock (Grip) which was established as West Yorkshire Polices' response to increasing levels of serious violent crime, knife crime and antisocial behaviour, funded through the Home Office Serious Violent Crime fund, and now embedded and co-located within the VRP. Based around evidenced based hotspot policing, the dedicated resources provide targeted enforcement into the hotspots across West Yorkshire. Working closely with Precision Team (Serious Organised Crime), Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) and Early Action Teams

(EAT) it supports our early intervention work. This work has also led to innovative partnerships with the implementation of teachable moments and deterrent models.

West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership is a large integrated care system (ICS) that supports 2.4 million people, living in urban and rural areas. 770,000 are children and young adults (the partnership covers, Bradford and Craven Districts, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield)

The West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership is made up of many different organisations and collaboratives across West Yorkshire, including our Partnership Board which is the Integrated Care Partnership for West Yorkshire. It also contains the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (West Yorkshire ICB) which is a statutory NHS organisation. We work collectively with the five districts Integrated Care Partnerships.

As a partnership we are committed to taking responsibility collectively and individually to take action to prevent and reduce trauma, adversity, and serious violence, supporting our population to thrive in a healthy, equitable, safe, and sustainable society.

The Improving population Health programme has a longstanding commitment with the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership and a joint Senior Manager Post funded by West VRP

Five place-based Community Safety Partnerships: are key partners in the prioritisation, coordination, and delivery at place and as such will be the conduit for named partners under the Serious Violence Duty to deliver at place. These local arrangements are ideally placed to identify, engage, and respond to locally evidenced based need and collaborate with Health and Wellbeing Boards, Safeguarding and Children's Partnerships in their response.

Whilst a set of objectives and priorities have been agreed and provide the West Yorkshire framework for achieving our vision, it is acknowledged that stakeholders and place partnerships will prioritise and deliver different elements. A system wide approach will be taken drawing upon the combined intelligence, knowledge, and skills.

CASE STUDY: Serious Youth Violence Area Meetings

Need:

An increasing number of young people in Leeds were at moderate or significant risk of harm as a result of serious youth violence.

Overview:

In order to enhance the effectiveness of work with young people involved in serious youth violence each of the three Leeds neighbourhood areas have implemented a multi-agency 'area meeting'.

The agency representatives attending this meeting have current local knowledge and up to date intelligence as well as some clear ideas of potential support in order to supplement the existing plans that are in place for these young people.

They need to have an allocated social worker and will have been assessed as being at significant (High) or moderate (Medium) risk of harm.

- When the social worker receives a *new referral*, they will consider if there are significant issues regarding serious youth violence, they will make the referral to the area meeting immediately
- If the social worker or any of the team around the child becomes aware of issues of serious youth violence emerging on *existing cases* or a situation escalating; the social worker can refer, or if they have been to the area meeting before, re-refer.
- If the child is *looked after child* and you are concerned about issues of serious youth violence the social worker can refer to the area meeting
- The referral can be made by the individual social worker at any time or following consideration at multi-agency meeting.

The meeting considers the presenting issues for that young person from the social worker and WYP followed by other agencies including third sector organisations sharing their information and undertaking some analysis a 'protective partner offer' will be made with the aim of supplementing the existing plan for the child. Actions by other agencies will become part of the overall statutory plan for the child.

Benefits:

- Better understanding and coordination of all agencies working with the child
- Improved sharing of information and intelligence from Police all agencies.
- Working much closer with the third sector and community.
- A focus around engaging the young people in positive activities in the community.
- Improved knowledge of professionals of support services in Leeds.
- Increased use of partnership intelligence portal.
- Improved awareness of the activities of urban street gangs and emerging groups in the area.
- Provided an opportunity for social workers to explore alternative engagement, specifically where young people are not effectively engaging
- Increased support offered by commissioned third sector organisations.

Evidence informed

Underpinning our whole strategy, focus and delivery, is the development and use of an evidence informed approach. The West Yorkshire VRP provides leadership and strategic coordination to embedding an evidenced based, public health approach to violence reduction in West Yorkshire. Structured with a dedicated research and evidence team at its core, the Knowledge Hub, the VRP seeks to understand and address the inequalities that can lead to involvement in serious violence, improving the safety of all members of our community. During 2024 we will continue to explore how the evidence can inform the work of partners including the local plans in response to the Serious Violence Duty.

The VRP have also developed our [Theory of Change, Monitoring and Evaluation toolkit](#) in partnership with Ecorys to support partners across the system in developing a robust outline of programmes and initiatives prior to commencement, alongside guiding the collection of relevant monitoring data throughout to allow for robust evaluation.



Trauma informed approach

Children who experience adversity and trauma are at greater risk of; poor physical/mental health and emotional wellbeing, substantive increases in adopting anti-social and health-harming behaviours, including serious violence, poor attendance/exclusion at school and decreased educational attainment.

Now continues to be the ideal time to prioritise preventing risk factors that affect health and wellbeing while strengthening protective factors. In West Yorkshire, evidence highlights the growing recognition of how social determinants of health contribute to poor outcomes, including the profound impact of adversity, trauma, and serious violence. Collaborative efforts across the region are connecting these issues to drive meaningful change.

The [West Yorkshire Adversity Trauma and Resilience Programme](#) is jointly led by the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership and the Improving Population Health Programme within the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership. We share a unified commitment with all places and partners across the system to prevent harm and enhance the wellbeing of our population. Our approach focuses on reducing trauma and adversity while building resilience, particularly for those in West Yorkshire who are most vulnerable, including individuals facing multiple challenges, complex needs, and childhood trauma.

As a partnership we are committed to deliver our vision of - working together with people with lived experience and colleagues across all sectors and organisations to ensure West Yorkshire is a trauma informed and responsive system by 2030 and develop a whole system approach to tackling multiple disadvantage.

Child First approach

Our Child First Framework, co-produced with over 450 children across West Yorkshire. It aims to reflect a child first approach that treats '*children as children*' and is the foundation of an approach to how children should be understood, treated, and supported.

It puts an emphasis on meaningful collaboration, whether this be through co-production, co-design, or consultation to ensure that our vision for the future aligns with our children's.

This includes making conscious language choices throughout:

- Anyone under the age of 18 is referred to as a child / children. This is in line with the Children's Act 1989 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Anyone aged 18 - 25 is referred to as a young adult
- Children will not be referred to as an offender, instead a child who has offended, to prevent labelling

When considering your response to our Strategic 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

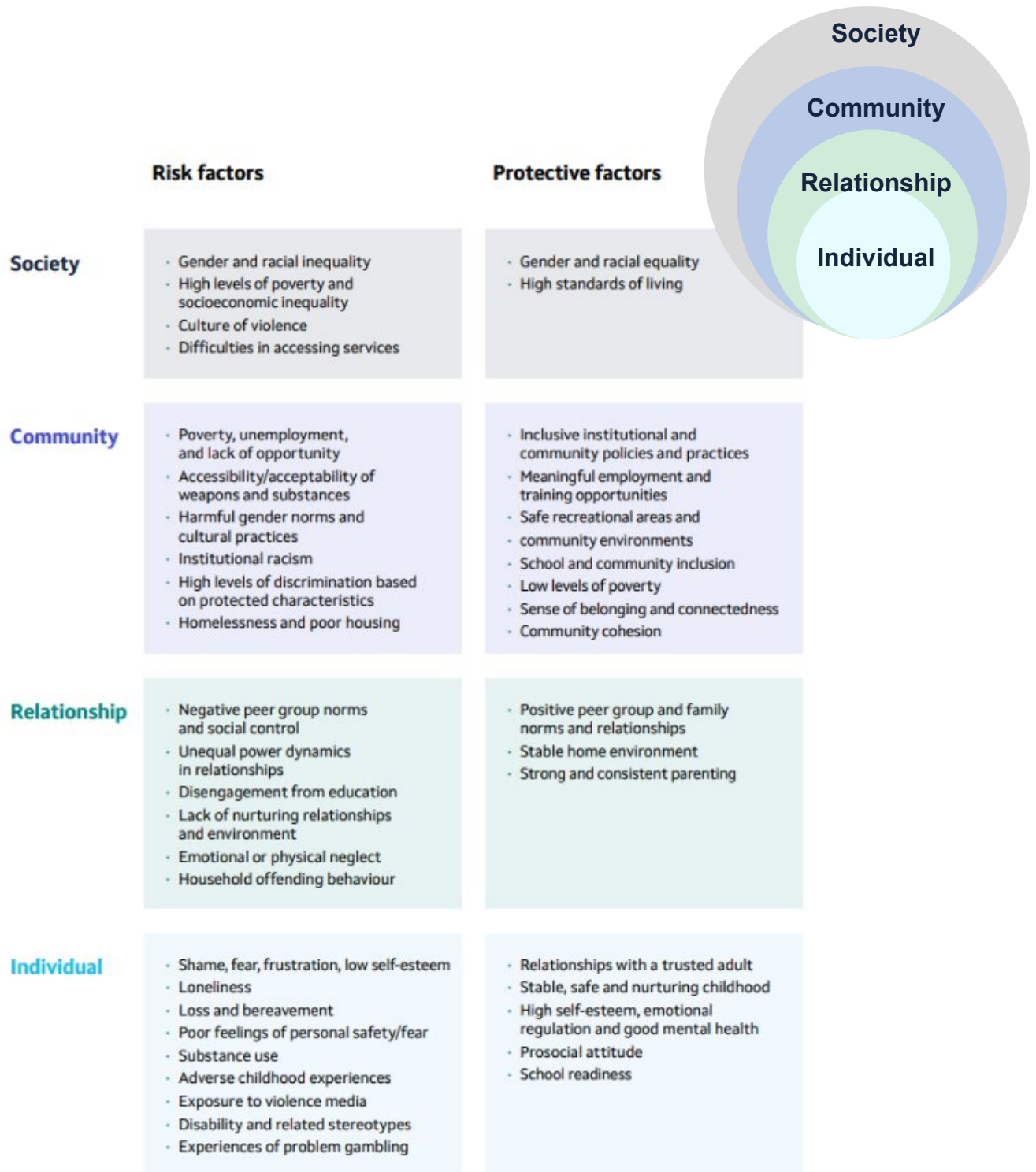
This can be factored into your response plans, with specific sections considering when and how children will be involved at each phase. If this is something you would like support with, please get in touch with the VRP Knowledge Hub.

Whole system approach

The World Health Organisation has developed the four-level social-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 overlapping rings in the model illustrate how factors at one level influence factors at another level. Our objectives are therefore to work and impact across all levels in an evidence-based approach.

Serious violence cannot be tackled in isolation and must be addressed through prevention strategies which address the multiple risk factors which cause and perpetuate violence; as well as promote the protective factors which mitigate against the perpetration and victimisation. We take a public health approach to violence, our approach and interventions focusing on deterrents and protective factors therefore aim to work across individual, relationship, community at the same time. It considers which interventions will be universal (aimed at the general population) and which will be targeted at those more at risk.

In addition, we recognise that our approach will also hold to account those who perpetrate serious violence. Our approach will include the role that enforcement and criminal justice can make to this whole system approach.



Sustainability

As we continue to develop our partnership working, we will continue to develop and implement our Sustainability Plan. We will work together to enable system change and achieve a sustainable approach to tackling serious violence. Through developing and utilising our knowledge and learning we will influence long term system change to respond to serious violence. The assets and strengths of local partnerships and communities in West Yorkshire will be harnessed to coproduce and embed the learning.

We recognise that there are no quick solutions to health inequalities and the root causes of serious violence. It is imperative that our investment in communities isn't therefore just for the short term but provide sustainable protective approaches. Our commissioning of projects and research will demonstrate plans to enable sustainability.

Community Engagement

We are committed to engaging with our communities and listening to their voices to inform our understanding of local needs, perception, and satisfaction. The partnership Communication and Engagement Strategy provides a comprehensive strategy, that both informs the public of our activities and actively works to bring about behavioural change. This is complemented by a practical engagement plan that ensures our work reflects what West Yorkshire communities want and need. It outlines a clear framework for our approach and the ways in which it will be executed and measured.

We want to prevent trauma and adversity, intervene early, and build resilience in communities and coproduce our responses². We recognise it is imperative to work in partnership with our communities and those with lived experience to directly address the impacts of entrenched inequalities. Our communities are our greatest assets with knowledge, skills and networks that are the building blocks of prevention and reducing serious violence and trauma. We will maximise opportunities to work in partnership to support individuals and communities who are at risk of exploitation and violence of organised crime. Coproduction and co-creation will take place at community level with active involvement from the Community Safety Partnerships and local support organisations to ensure that local people are at the heart of the solution. This will take an approach of consult and engage on need; design, deliver and commission in collaboration.

² Trauma Informed Co-production Guidance
https://www.wypartnership.co.uk/application/files/6416/5104/5038/West_Yorkshire_Trauma_Informed_Co-Production_Guidance_April_22.pdf

Needs Assessment

We are proud of our suite of needs assessments that together provide a detailed analysis of evidence, understanding the risk, impact, views of our communities and need in each of our five districts and across West Yorkshire. Our West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment provides a summary of the contextual understanding of serious violence in West Yorkshire, built on district profiles. This should be read in conjunction with the Influential Factors Evidence Synthesis which provides an insight and understanding of the factors that influence an individual's chances of becoming a victim and/or perpetrator of serious violence.

Priorities

We recognise that the risk factors and needs identified through our needs assessments do not neatly fit into headings as there is interconnectivity between areas of need and place-based needs can vary. The following priorities support the national aims, our vision and strategic objectives and provide a framework for us to respond to local and West Yorkshire needs through a common framework. By grouping into the following priorities based on a public health approach we understand the influence the wider social context has on individuals, our communities and for serious violence occurring and will deliver the identified need through this interconnected approach:

1. Individual
2. Relationship
3. Community
4. Society
5. Sustainability and cultural change

Priority 1: Individual

Evidence:

Our research and data identify a set of risk factors which impact on the vulnerabilities of individuals being involved in serious crime or being a victim. Focusing on the biological, behaviour and personal history factors of individuals our evidence supports that we will have particular focus on:

- Substance misuse and alcohol
- Care leavers
- Education and exclusions
- Mental health
- Neurodiversity

CASE STUDY: Chill Skillz - Kirklees

Need:

Children in the justice system and/or at risk of exploitation are particularly vulnerable in terms of their mental health and wellbeing and their behaviour is influenced by their response to trauma, abuse, poverty, social exclusion.

Children often end up in the criminal justice system because they are unable to manage their emotions when presented with perceived challenge and are associated with groups or gangs where violence and fear of violence is a part of life. There was a need, therefore, to help these young people manage their emotional responses and understand their inner world a little better can address the risk of further serious youth violence.

Overview:

- The Youth Justice Team developed a referral for young people to Chillz Skills for bespoke support designed specifically for the young person.
- The model delivered has been a 90-minute session once a week, with a cohort of 4 – 6 children for 3 – 4 weeks. These are delivered in community settings in local venues.
- The sessions, led by a qualified youth worker, are strengths based and use a variety of techniques to help children find ways to relax, deal with strong emotions, build self-esteem in order to promote their wellbeing and positive mental health.

Benefits

- Improvements to confidence and self-esteem.
- Improved ability to manage emotions and navigate difficult situations.
- Promotion of wellbeing and positive mental health.

“Child two really enjoyed the sessions and spoke to their case manager about the strategies they had learnt to better manage their anger and their anxiety. They also felt that they had learnt about how to better recognise and manage their emotions.”

Case study of child involved in the project

CASE STUDY: Inspire – Bradford

Need:

There was a need to support primary school children who are on the edge of criminality or who have parents/siblings involved in crime are at increased risk of exploitation. These children may have challenges with anger, trouble forming relationships and lack confidence and self-esteem.

Overview:

- 10-week primary school input, 2 hours a week, that targeted 12 children in Year 5 and 6.
- Provided a safe, trusted, non-judgemental space to explore and tackle issues that could lead to negative lifestyle choices, such as peer pressure, negative role models and low view of self.
- It is a responsive programme that adapted to the specific needs of the children.

Benefits

- Delivery helped each young person feel positive, encouraged and empowered about their future by the end of the program.
- Provided a clearer understanding of themselves and those around them, and a renewed confidence in who they are and what they are able to aim for.

“We were impressed by the level of engagement and willingness of the children to participate. Children were able to gain a deeper understanding of their own feelings, beginning to recognise what makes them feel anxious/angry or dysregulated both in the school and home environment.” Barkerend Primary School

Priority 2: Relationships

Evidence:

A person's closest social circle such as peers, partners, and family members, influences their behaviour and contributes to their range of behaviour, in addition to being a protective factor for violence and trauma. Examining close relationships that may increase the risk of experiencing violence as a victim or perpetrator. We have identified a number of focus areas for West Yorkshire:

- Deprivation and the cost-of-living crisis
- Homelessness
- VAWG
- Child to Parent Violence
- Experiences of sexual violence
- Domestic abuse in the household

- Young carers

CASE STUDY: Sexual Violence Prevention Project - Wakefield

Need:

In the year 2020, Police recorded over 83,000 child sexual abuse offences. This is an increase of 267% since 2013. Research indicates that approximately ¼ of all child sexual abuse involves a perpetrator under the age of 18. Offences include unwanted touching, sexual assault and rape.

Overview:

- The project aimed to educate and inform children and young people about Violence Against Women and Girls, healthy relationships and consent.
- Aimed at young people aged 16-25, each group (usually between 25-30 students) received a one-hour workshop facilitated by KCRASAC.
- The intervention addressed the identified needs by teaching young people the importance of consent and how to spot and prevent rape and sexual violence
- It also challenged the sexually violent behaviour and harassment that has become increasingly normalised to young people through pornography and incel figures online, such as Andrew Tate.

Benefits

- Reached a total of 2,678 students in workshops.
- Understanding gained about consent and increasing awareness of how to spot and prevent rape and sexual violence.
- Increase in young people accessing support for sexual violence through KRASAC.
- Wakefield College and Castleford College also experienced a very significant increase in the number of disclosures of both sexual and domestic violence. Students were disclosing both during the sessions and to the academic/pastoral staff outside of sessions.

“There has been a noticeable change among the students’ responses to sexual violence. They are now focusing on the abuser rather than victim blaming or accusing students of making false allegations. It is refreshing”

Pastoral Staff

Priority 3: Community

Evidence:

This priority focuses on the settings, such as schools, workplaces, and neighbourhoods, in which social relationships occur and seeks to identify the

characteristics of these settings that are associated with becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. The needs assessment highlights the following priorities:

- Place based priorities and delivery including ASB, County Lines, organised crime, carrying a weapon, personal robbery, limited economic opportunities
- Lack of access to services and opportunities including mental health provision and a breadth of out of school activities
- Online spaces including the emerging metaverse and online gambling
- Sporting violence
- NEET

CASE STUDY: Unique Community Hub - Calderdale

Need:

The bonfire period is traditionally a challenging time for front line staff, however this has been further compounded in the last couple of years by the death on bonfire night of a young boy in the district. Funding through the Violence Reduction Partnership has allowed partners to focus on having a presence on our streets to ensure that the community felt safe and there is not a repeat of this tragic incident.

Overview:

- Unique Community Hub, along with West Yorkshire Police and other partners were tasked to provide an intensive programme offer for young people in the Park Ward area to ensure that anti-social and risk-taking behaviours were minimised, and diversionary activities were provided to keep everyone safe and engaged
- The aim was to engage with young people during detached and outreach sessions, where the project engaged with young people on the streets, and in and around known hot spot areas and then referred them to the sessions at the Unique Community Hub, and The Cage during Bonfire Night festivities, whilst providing information on safe practices around fireworks and bonfires
- Activities on offer were varied, including football tournaments, boxing, fitness sessions and cycling, to traditional youth club activities such as pool tables, table tennis, air hockey and space for gaming.

Benefits

- Engaged hundreds of young people each week
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour
- Provision of a safe, warm and vibrant environment for young people to engage in
- Increased feelings of safety throughout the bonfire period

Priority 4: Society

Evidence:

There are a broad range of societal factors that either create a level of acceptance or intolerance for violence including health, economic, cultural and social norms, and educational. In addition, there are also factors that can create and sustain gaps between different segments of society. Our needs assessment identified the following key areas:

- NEET
- Cost-of-living crisis
- Homelessness and overcrowding
- Social norms of children and young adults, women, and violence

Priority 5: Sustainability and Cultural Change

Evidence:

Tackling the root causes of serious violence is a long-term approach with the impact not always being felt in the short to medium term. To make longer term impact therefore requires adoption of a trauma informed sustainable approach to serious violence which requires financial as well as cultural sustainability. We therefore need to ensure longevity of our approach and interventions and embedding response to serious violence into operational practice.

Austerity measures are continuing to be felt by services. A new way of working within existing financial parameters is therefore required. Working together to create system change and focusing resources on, and in, those communities most at need.

The Serious Violence Duty places a responsibility on named partners to deliver strategies to tackle the causes of serious violence further supporting the need for a coordinated approach to system and cultural change.

Our Response

Our delivery will be a mixture of short- and longer-term approaches and delivered through primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention through a trauma informed lens. The responses include a range of integrated partnership response, research, engagement, and interventions. An overview of our delivery is outlined at Appendix 1. But this is not exhaustive, and the further response will be developed in a West Yorkshire and five place based delivery plans.

Accountability

Who will be accountable?

The VRP is accountable to the Home Office and hosted by West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The West Yorkshire Serious Violence Reduction Executive Steering Group, chaired by the West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor has overall oversight of serious violence. This group includes the VRP 'core membership' as for VRPs required by the Home Office, Serious Violence Duty specified authorities, and wider partners who contribute to our understanding and system approach to serious violence. Having responsibility for decisions relating to the VRP, Serious Violence Duty, this membership provides a strategic framework, sharing best practice and alignment with district operational delivery such as the work of the Community Safety Partnerships.

The operational delivery of priorities is developed and overseen by a Partnership Delivery Group and the five place-based Community Safety Partnerships. The breadth of partner involvement in these partnerships provides an opportunity to share understanding and maximise opportunities for the implementation of the priorities. Our network of partners and connecting partnerships are broad but there are always opportunities to develop this further. The serious violence duty places a new emphasis on the role and contribution of partners. Therefore, as our partnership continues to mature, we are further developing clarity on the roles and responsibilities of partners and our accountability structures. We will help partners to meet Home Office and statutory duty requirements as well embedding our partners as active participants in decision making at different levels. This will ensure that we can simplify and maximise opportunities of the roles of our core members and delivery structures.

What will we measure?

The use of data and intelligence is at the heart of our public health response to serious violence. We use our knowledge to plan and design our response; in our implementation and delivery; as well as informing the monitoring of implementation and impact we make on serious violence.

We monitor the performance of our interventions, learn from the implementation of our actions, and understand the impact that it has upon communities. Our Theory of Change model outlines the outcomes and impacts that we are aiming to achieve through our inputs and activities.

How we will measure our work

The VRP Knowledge Hub take a central role, in collaboration with our partners, of facilitating the robust evidence base and analysis through hosting a data dashboard; production of Strategic Needs Assessments supplemented by Place based profiles and Influential Factors; commissioning evaluation and undertaking research projects; and through community engagement and gaining their feedback.

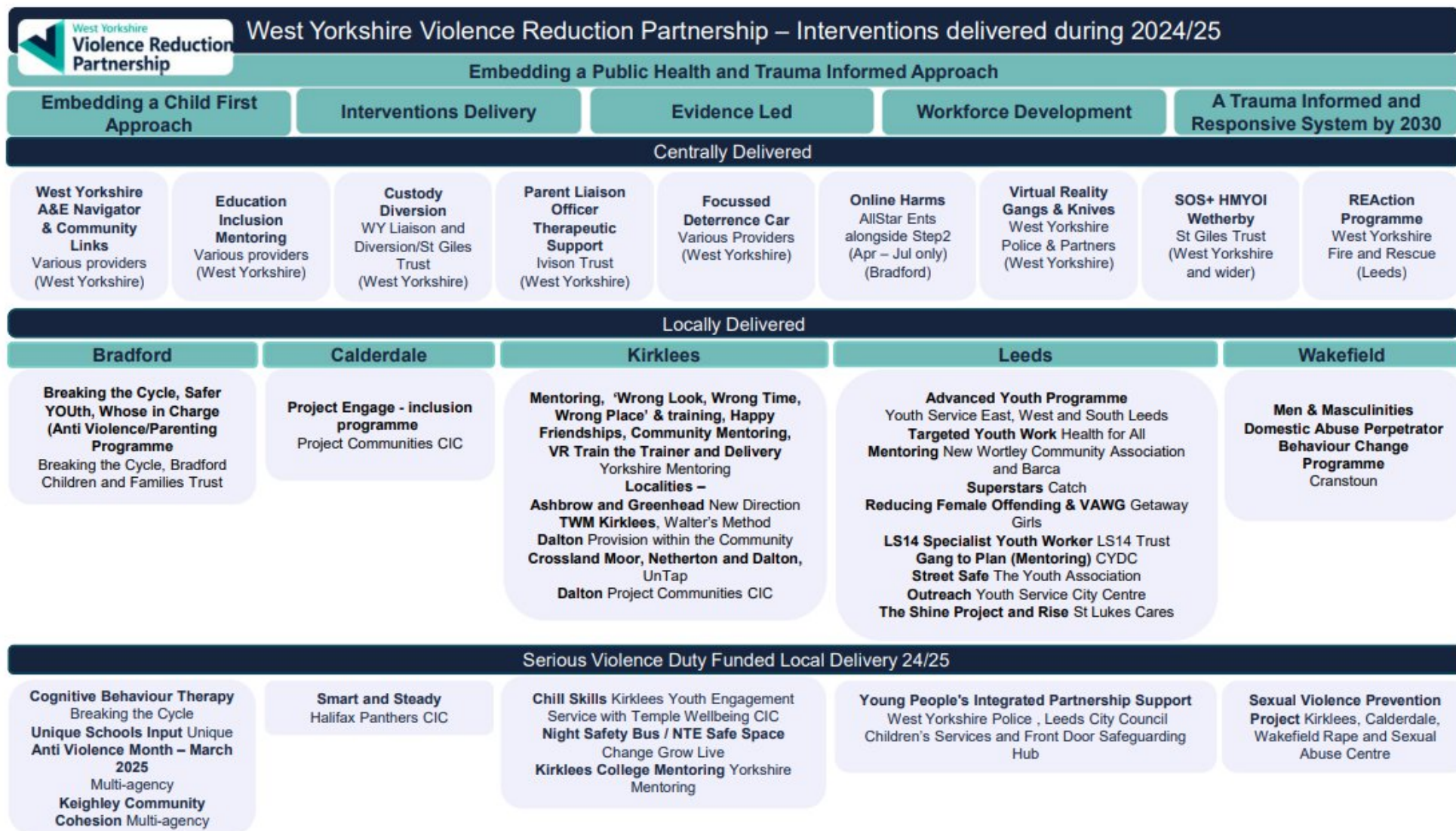
Utilising our evaluation and review we are accountable for our delivery through our governance arrangements. We continue to use this intelligence and community feedback to inform ongoing quality improvements to our approach, transformation, and sustainability of our work.

Data Sharing

The West Yorkshire VRP is committed to effective, secure, and purposeful data sharing as a cornerstone of violence reduction efforts. Using the Serious Violence Duty as an enabler, we have established data-sharing agreements with key partners, facilitating collaborative use of data.

Appendix 3 provides a summary of our Data Sharing Strategy

Appendix 1: Violence Reduction Partnership and Serious Violence Duty Funded Initiatives 2024/2025 Financial Year



Appendix 2: Delivery from the wider Violence Reduction Partnership against Response Strategy priorities

Please note this list is not exhaustive and is being developed across the partnership.

District	Project and Intervention Type	Organisation	Individual	Relationship	Community	Society
West Yorkshire	Operation Jemlock (Enforcement)	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Domestic Violence: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences - MARAC (Other)	Local Authorities with other statutory and VCSE partners				
West Yorkshire	Domestic Violence: Daily Risk Assessment Meetings - DRAM (Other)	Local Authorities				
West Yorkshire	Domestic Violence: Support in Safe Accommodation projects (Other)	Local Authorities				
West Yorkshire	Homicide Prevention Threat Delivery Group (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Contextual Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Meetings - MACE (Other)	Childrens Services				
West Yorkshire	WYFRS Youth Interventions (Social Skills)	WYFRS (West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service)				
West Yorkshire	The King's Trust Get Started programmes - Get Started with Health and Fitness (Sports programme)	WYFRS				
West Yorkshire	The King's Trust Get Started programmes - Get Started with Emergency Response (Other)	WYFRS				
West Yorkshire	Fast Furious and Fatal (FFF) and @Etude Targeted Intervention Days (Other)	WYFRS				
West Yorkshire	Drive4 Life (Other)	WYFRS				
West Yorkshire	Targeted intervention Days - TID (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
West Yorkshire	Junior Detectives (Social Skills Training)	West Yorkshire Police with Partners				
West Yorkshire	Programme Precision (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Civil Order Caseworkers for Sexual Offending (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	V100 (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Public Protection Notice Triage Process (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Cut it Out (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Smartwater (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	SPARK! summer camp (After-school programmes)	Youth Justice Service				
Bradford	Bradford & District Knife Replacement scheme (Other)	Youth Justice Services, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Team & The Police				
Bradford	Peer Action Collective (Social skills training)	Bradford City Community Football Foundation				

Bradford	Kicks (Sports programme)	Bradford City Community Football Foundation				
Bradford	First Round Boxing (Sports programme)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Brew Project (Mentoring)	Invictus Well-Being				
Bradford	Holmewood Project (After-school Programmes)	WYFRS				
Bradford	Bonfire / ASB (Focused Deterrence)	WYFRS & BCFC Community Foundation				
Bradford	MARAC Navigators (Mentoring)	Bridge Project				
Bradford	Dance United (Sports programme)	Dance United				
Bradford	Lotus Project (Mentoring)	Bridge Project				
Bradford	ASB project (Sports programme)	Bradford Bulls foundation				
Bradford	Young person IDVA (Mentoring)	James				
Bradford	OnTrack Community Initiative (After-school programmes)	On Trak				
Bradford	Jog On (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	PSHE/After school wellbeing inputs (Social skills training)	Bradford Council/Unique				
Bradford	Inspired Young and Healthy People (Mentoring)	Inspired Young and Healthy People				
Bradford	Himmat Project (Mentoring)	Himmat Alternative Education and Youth Work				
Bradford	Muslim women in prison project (Mentoring)	Khidmatt Centre				
Bradford	MIND in Bradford (Mentoring)	Youth in Mind				
Bradford	Prism youth project (Intervention to prevent school exclusion)	Prism				
Bradford	Place 2Be (Other)	Place 2Be				
Bradford	School engagement Programme (Intervention to prevent school exclusion)	West Yorkshire Police / Bradford City Community foundation (BCCF)				
Bradford	Anti-violence month (1st - 28th Feb 25) (Other)	Safer Bradford				
Bradford	OutLoud / Beyond the Margin (After-school programmes)	OutLoud				
Bradford	L&D (Custody-based teachable moments)	Liaison and Diversion				
Bradford	Step2 (Mentoring)	Step 2				
Bradford	All Star Entz (Mentoring)	All Star Entz				
Bradford	Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (Anti-bullying programmes)	Bradford Hate Crime Alliance				
Bradford	Soundproof box (Other)	Soundproof box				
Bradford	Streetgames (Sports programme)	Streetgames				
Bradford	The Valley Project (After-school programmes)	The Valley Project				
Bradford	Area Leader Pilot Project (Other)	Youth Endowment Fund / Safer Bradford / Violence Reduction Partnership				
Bradford	Keighley vibe on tour (Social skills training)	Keighley Vibe Keighley Neighbourhood Team				
Bradford	Youth Documentary project (Keighley) (Other)	Keighley Neighbourhood Team				
Bradford	Canterbury Youth work (Mentoring)	Bradford East Neighbourhood Team				

Bradford	Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Protection Orders (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Young people's mentoring (Mentoring)	NHS				
Bradford	Breaking the Cycle (Mentoring)	Breaking the Cycle				
Bradford	Keighley Together (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Cut Music (Focused deterrence)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Op Saintburg (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Op Nocturnal NTE Provision (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Op Safehall (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Operation SIGNWARD (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Programmes for BD3 Clear Hold Build including SHOUT, GRIT, TID (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
Bradford	SHOUT programme (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
Calderdale	Bonfire Night Disorder Outreach Programme (Other)	Unique Community Hubs in conjunction with Newground Together and Calderdale CSP				
Calderdale	Calderdale Staying Safe (Other)	Calderdale Council				
Calderdale	First Aid Training related to weapons injuries (Social Skills Training)	Street Doctors				
Calderdale	Behind the Blade (Social Skills Training)	Skills for Youth				
Calderdale	Sunnyvale (Intervention to prevent school exclusion)	Sunnyvale				
Calderdale	Weapons Awareness (Social Skills Training)	Streetwise Resources				
Calderdale	Project Engage (Intervention to prevent school exclusion)	Project Communities / Calderdale CSP				
Calderdale	SHOUT and TID (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
Calderdale	Knife Crime Awareness Film (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Summer Road Shows (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Youth Early Action Prevention Programme (Intervention to prevent school exclusion)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	School Transition Programme (Police in schools)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Girls Empowerment Course (Sports Programme)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	School Assemblies Awareness Sessions (Police in schools)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Operation Orion Halifax Town Centre (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Cuppa with a Copper - Calderdale College (Police in schools)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Operation Halcyon (NTE) (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale and Kirklees	Engage, Empower, Inspire (Social Skills Training)	ROKT Foundation				
Kirklees	Northfield Hall - Youth Hub (Other)	Positive Stepz CIC				
Kirklees	Fire Safety Education (Other)	West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service				
Kirklees	Safe Space/Youth Club (sports programme)	Make Things Happen Football Club MTHFC				
Kirklees	Kirklees Domestic Abuse Specialist Services (Other)	Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnership Limited				
Kirklees	Victim Support - Autistic Adults (Other)	The Good Vibe Project				

Kirklees	Development of Healthy Behaviours (Social Skills Training)	Temple Well-Being CIC				
Kirklees	Child Criminal Exploitation (Other)	On the Verge CIC				
Kirklees	Primary & Secondary School Workshops (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
Kirklees	Show Racism the Red Card (Social Skills Training)	Show Racism the Red Card				
Kirklees	Self-defence for Women (Sports Programme)	Huddersfield Community BJJ				
Kirklees	Team Hanson (Sports Programme)	Team Hanson				
Kirklees	Music Programme (Other)	The Oracle 1 Community Org				
Kirklees	VR Headsets (Other)	Yorkshire Mentoring				
Kirklees	Stop Search Understanding Project (Police in Schools)	West Yorkshire Police				
Kirklees	Kirklees Early Action Team (Police in Schools)	West Yorkshire Police				
Leeds	The Safe Project (Other)	LCC Childrens services				
Leeds	Girls and Gangs Practise Development Group (Other)	Safe Project and Partners				
Leeds	Daily Project Shield Meetings (Other)	WYP, Childrens Services, YOT Education, Liaison & Diversion				
Leeds	Serious Youth Violence Area Meetings - South East and West Leeds (Other)	WYP, Childrens services and partners including commissioned third sector community organisations				
Leeds	Urban Street Gang Case Conference (Other)	Probation, WYP, YOT				
Leeds	Guiding A New Generation - G.A.N.G (Mentoring)	WYP and Chapeltown Youth Development Centre				
Leeds	Leeds District Risk and Reduction Strategy (Other)	WYFS				
Leeds	Targeted Group and 1-1 interventions (Other)	Probation services				
Leeds	Youth Intervention Programmes (Other)	WYFRS				
Leeds	Safe and Well Programme (Other)	WYFRS				
Leeds	7 Family Hubs (Other)	LCC, WYP				
Leeds	Manchester Bee - Anti Guns Campaign (Other)	WYP + LCC				
Leeds	Courts Knife Project (Other)	Leeds Crown Court, CSP, YOT, WYP				
Leeds	90 Minute Project - City wide (Other)	WYP + LCC Youth services and third sector				
Leeds	Youth Alliances - East, South, West (After school programmes)	LCC and VCSE				
Leeds	Leeds Domestic Violence Service (Other)	LCC				
Leeds	WalkSafe Leeds (Other)	Safer Leeds				
Leeds	NightSafe Leeds Operations (Other)	Safer Leeds Partners inc. BACIL				
Leeds	DaySafe Leeds Operations (Other)	Safer Leeds Partners inc. BACIL				
Leeds	Children and Young People's Problem-Solving Group - City Centre (Other)	LCC Children & Families/LASBT				
Leeds	Street Sex Work Partnership (Other)	Safer Leeds				
Leeds	Switch onto Women's Safety (Other)	Leeds Women's Aid				
Leeds	Programmes for Harehills Clear Hold Build including SHOUT, GRIT, TID (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
Leeds	Re 🔥 Action - Armley (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
Leeds	ASB Team (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				

Leeds	Project Shield (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Leeds	Leeds Owl (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Wakefield	Behind the Blade (Social Skills Training)	Wakefield Council Youth Justice Service& West Yorkshire Police				
Wakefield	FireWork - Pilot programme with Wakefield Youth Justice Service (Social Skills Training)	WYFRS				
Wakefield	ASPIRE Programme (Social Skills Training)	West Yorkshire Police				
Wakefield	Wakefield Outer City East NPT - Community Engagement App (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Wakefield	Early Action Cell Intervention Project (Pre Court-Diversion)	West Yorkshire Police				
Wakefield	Making the Community Safe Social Media Campaign - Wakefield outer city east (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Wakefield	Knife Arch - Wakefield District NPT's and Licensing Team (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				
Wakefield	Operation Sceptre - Knife Crime Awareness Week (Other)	West Yorkshire Police				

A description of the project / intervention types can be found on the next page.

Project Intervention type / approach	
A&E Navigators	Programmes that place case workers in accident and emergency departments to support children and young people with a violence-related injury.
After-school programmes	Programmes which take place after school and involve academic support, enrichment, or social skills development.
Anti-bullying programmes	School-based programmes designed to reduce bullying
Cognitive behavioural therapy	A talking therapy which helps people recognise and manage negative thoughts and behaviours.
Custody-based teachable moments	Teachable moment-based programmes that place caseworkers or coaches in police custody suites to support children and young people who arrive in police custody.
Focused deterrence	A strategy that combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it.
Intervention to prevent school exclusion	Interventions which aim to prevent children becoming excluded or suspended from school.
Mentoring	Matching children and young people with mentors who provide guidance and support.
Multi-systemic therapy	A family therapy programme for children at risk of placement in either care or custody
Parenting programmes	Programmes which help parents and their children to develop positive behaviours and relationships.
Police in schools	Police officers working in schools to prevent crime and violence
Pre-court diversion	Diverting children who have committed first-time or low level offences away from the formal youth justice system
Restorative justice	A process which supports someone who has committed a crime to communicate with the victim, understand the impact of their actions, and find a positive way forward.
Social skills training	Aims to develop children's ability to regulate their behaviour and communicate effectively.
Sports programme	Secondary or tertiary prevention programmes which engage children in organised sports or physical activity
Trauma informed training	Training staff and redesigning services with an explicit focus on recognising trauma and avoiding re-traumatisation.
Other	

Appendix 3 – Data Sharing Strategy Summary

The West Yorkshire VRP is committed to effective, secure, and purposeful data sharing as a cornerstone of violence reduction efforts. Using the Serious Violence Duty as an enabler, we have established data-sharing agreements with key partners, facilitating collaborative use of data.

This shared data informs the development of crucial products such as the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and Local Profiles, which guide our Response Strategy. Additionally, we have created a multi-agency data dashboard using Power BI, providing duty holders with access to real-time data to monitor trends and support decision-making.

1. Governance and Legal Compliance

The VRP has implemented robust governance arrangements to ensure all Core Members are aligned on the scope and legality of data sharing. Core Members have clear agreements, ensuring compliance with legal requirements such as GDPR, with regular reviews to maintain transparency and accountability. Governance and oversight of data and information, and compliance with relevant legislation and information laws, rests with the Combined Authority's Information Governance Manager and Data Protection Officer. The DPO provides scrutiny via a series of scrutiny boards in line with the Combined Authority's Information Management Strategy.

2. Purpose and Use of Data

Data collected through the VRP is used to inform mandatory products, including the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), Response Strategy (RS), and commissioned interventions. It enables evidence-based decision-making and identifies key areas for intervention and resource allocation across West Yorkshire. The VRP ensures data is relevant, adequate and proportionate to its needs, while explicitly setting out the specified and legitimate purposes within data sharing agreements. As with any data analysis, further deep dives may drive the VRP to consider further data categories to analyse, but VRP will ensure that these are not further processed in a manner that's incompatible with its original specified purposes

3. Resources and Expertise

The VRP has dedicated resources to ensure the smooth implementation of its data-sharing strategy. A named Data Sharing Lead oversees this process, supported by subject matter experts in data governance and analytics. This ensures ongoing compliance and the effective use of shared data.

4. Capacity Building for Core Members

The VRP actively works to build the capacity of Core Members and partners, enhancing their understanding of how data informs strategic decisions. This includes workshops, training, and access to shared tools like the multi-agency dashboard.

5. Measuring Effectiveness

To assess the impact of our data-sharing strategy, we will regularly monitor its contribution to reducing violence, using metrics such as the timeliness, accuracy, and relevance of shared data. Feedback from Core Members and duty holders will guide continuous improvement, ensuring that data sharing directly supports our violence prevention goals.

Our full data sharing strategy is available upon request.