

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE  
& RUTLAND

# VRN Strategy and Updates

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# About the VRN

Established in September 2019 following receipt of Home Office funding.

We are one of 20 Violence Reduction Units across England and Wales tasked with preventing and reducing serious violence through taking **a public health approach**.

- A small team working with a broad network of partners and governed by the Strategic Partnership Board.
- The VRN initially focused on preventing and reducing serious violence in public places with a priority focus of CYP. Our scope has since increased to include DASV.
- Our activity broadly focuses on data and insights, evidence reviews, intervention design and delivery, community and young person involvement, developing new partnerships and initiatives, campaign and evaluation.
- This year the team has also supported relevant partners to mobilise for the new Serious Violence Duty.

# Our Approach

In line with the UK Government's Serious Violence Strategy, VRUs are expected support a multi-agency, public health, long-term approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, which is:

- Causes ill-health through fear, injury and loss affecting individuals and communities
- Violence "spreads", with clusters of incidents linked in time, by place or by the groups of people affected
- Distributed unequally across population groups and contributes to health inequalities
- Risk factors for violence overlap with risk factors for other adverse physical and mental health outcomes
- It has **root causes**, it can be **treated**, it can be **prevented**

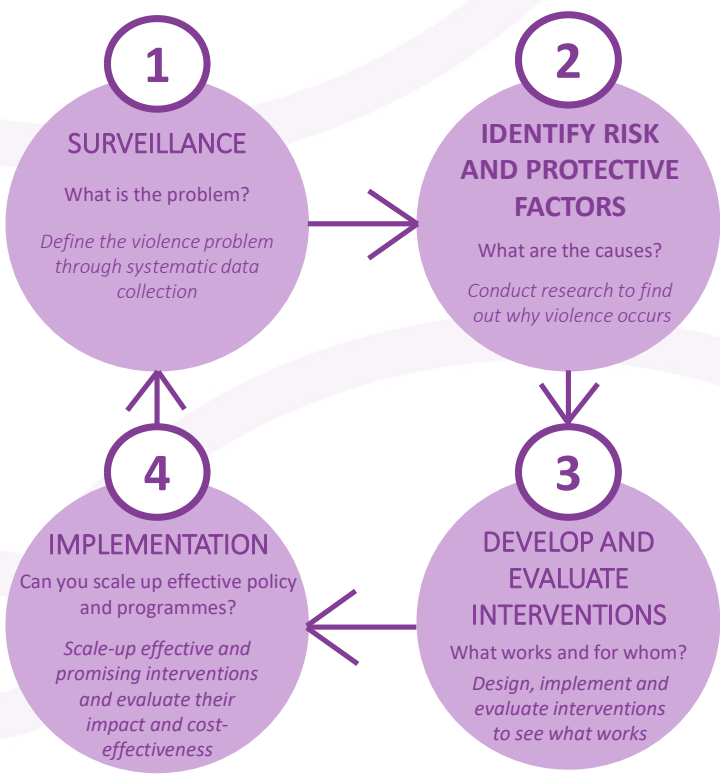
- ✓ Focused on a defined population
- ✓ With and for communities
- ✓ Not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries
- ✓ Focussed on generating long term as well as short term solutions
- ✓ Based on data and intelligence to identify the burden on the population, including any inequalities
- ✓ Rooted in evidence of effectiveness to tackle the problem

# Our Approach

## Public Health Principles

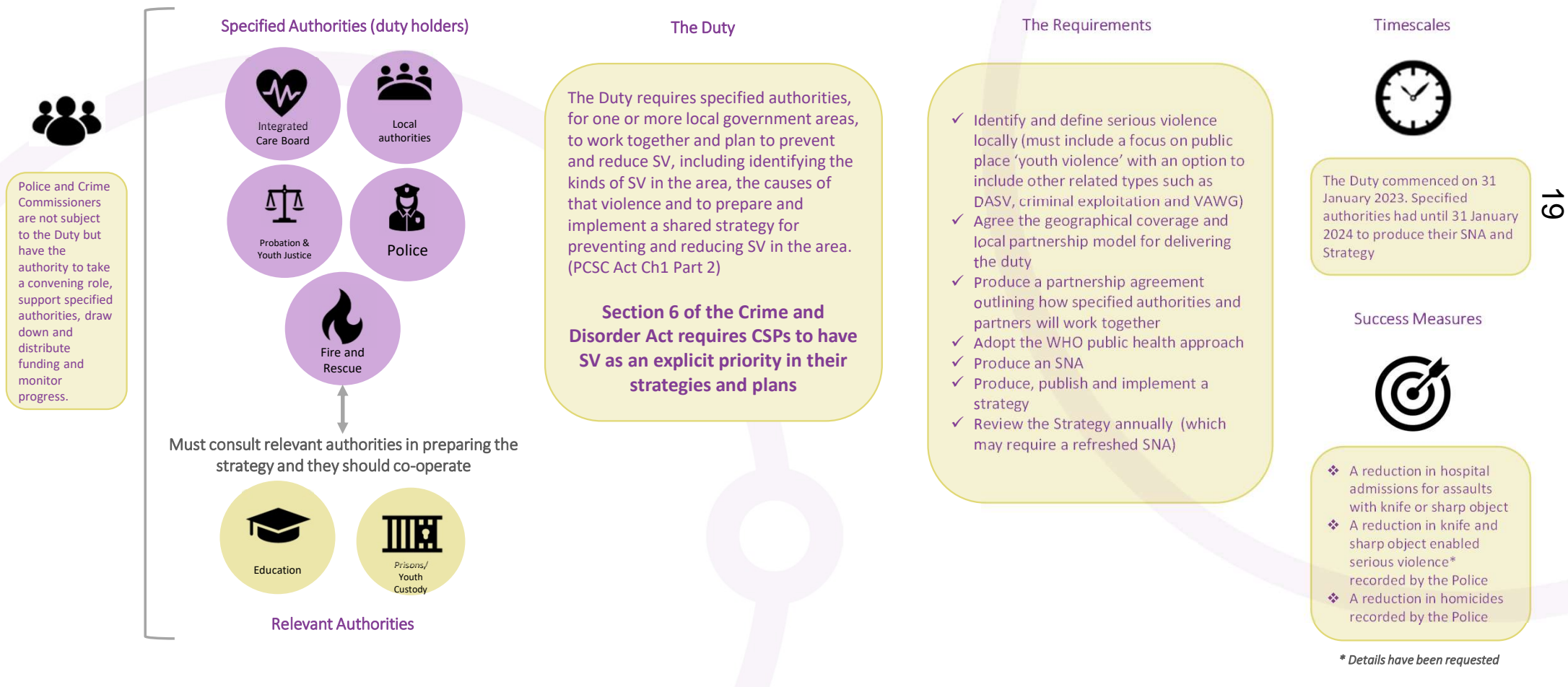


## Four Step Process



# The Duty

The requirements of the duty are very similar to the work of our VRN partnership except it places a legal duty on specified authorities



# Requirements (all met).

1

## Defining Serious Violence

Specified authorities (SAs) are expected to define serious violence.

*The Local Definition has been agreed as:*

*“Violence resulting in significant physical injury and other serious harm, including sexual violence. Violence may be committed with or without weapons, and may take place in domestic or public places”*

2

## Defining the Local Area

Specified authorities should agree the local partnership model (and its geographical area) for discharging the duty.

*It has been agreed that the area will be LLR-wide and the Strategic Partnership Board and VRN will be the local partnership model.*

*A mandatory Partnership Agreement has been signed-off by SPB and submitted to the Home Office.*

3

## Understanding Local Issues

The partnership should work together to establish the local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA).

*The VRN team have produced the Strategic Needs Assessment based on the new definition. Locality-based violence profiles are being produced for each CSP. The City have provided data and reviewed the SNA before sign-off.*

4

## Preparation, Publication and Implementation of a Strategy

The partnership must collectively develop a strategy which should outline the multi-agency response that will taken to prevent and reduce serious violence in the local area.

*A series of co-production events informed the new Strategy which was produced by the VRN team on behalf of the partnership. It was submitted to the Home Office as required by 31 January 2024.*



# Serious Violence Definition

The local definition of serious violence is the one adopted by the VRN partnership following the commencement of the Serious Violence Duty (2023):

*“Violence resulting in significant physical injury and other serious harm, including sexual violence. Violence may be committed with or without weapons, and may take place in domestic or public places”*

## SERIOUS VIOLENCE DEFINITION

### ALL SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCE TYPES

#### HOMICIDE:

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Corporate Manslaughter
- Infanticide

#### ROBBERY:

- Robbery of Business Property
- Robbery of Personal Property

#### ARSON:

- Arson – Endangering Life

#### VIOLENCE WITH INJURY:

- Attempted Murder
- Cause or Allow Death or Serious Physical Harm to Child or Vulnerable Person
- Assault with Intent to Cause Serious Harm
- Endangering Life
- Assault with Injury
- Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault with Injury

#### VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY:

- Threats to Kill
- Kidnapping and False Imprisonment
- Modern Slavery

#### STALKING AND HARRASSMENT:

- Harassment
- Racially or Religiously Aggravated Harassment
- Malicious Communications
- Stalking
- Controlling or Coercive Behaviour

#### SEXUAL OFFENCES:

- Rape
- Other Sexual Offences

#### MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES

#### AGAINST SOCIETY:

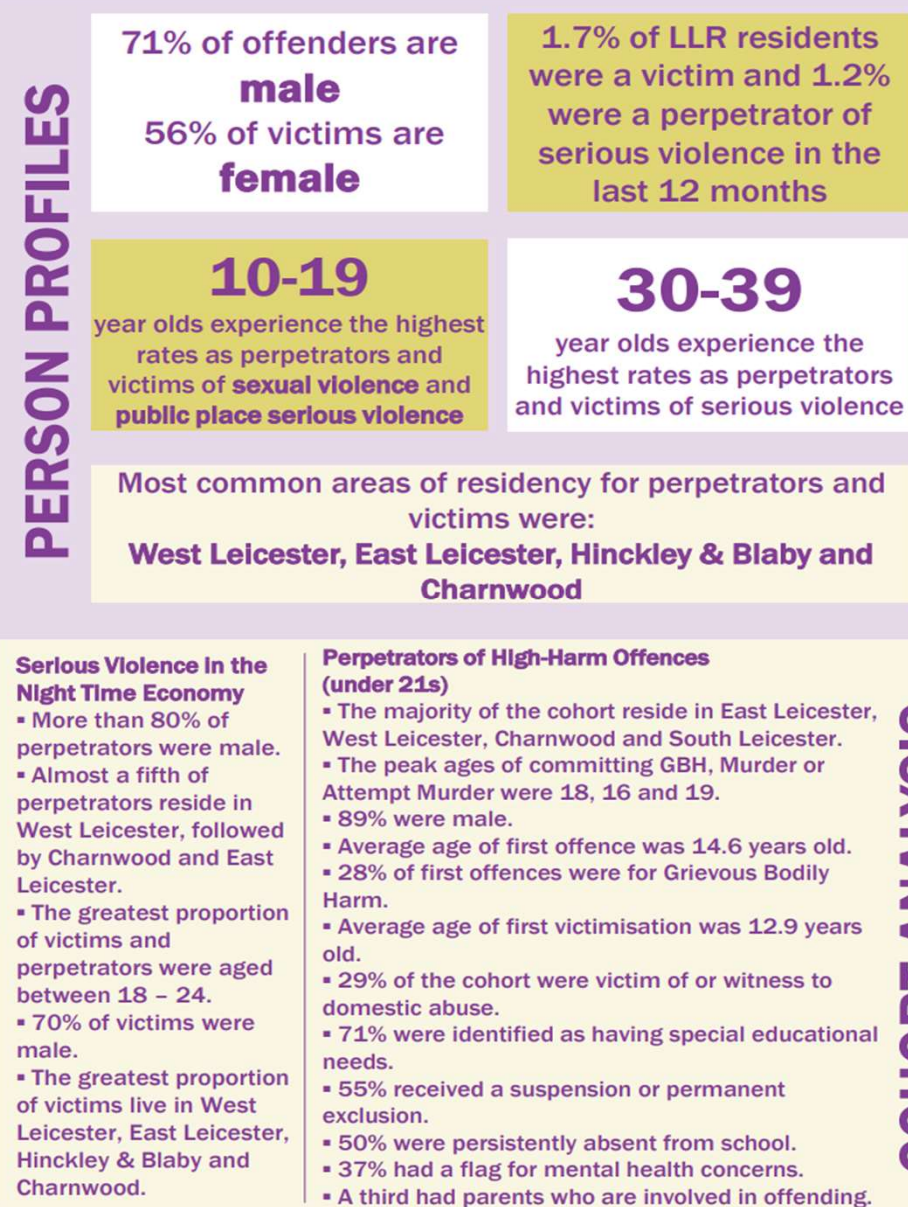
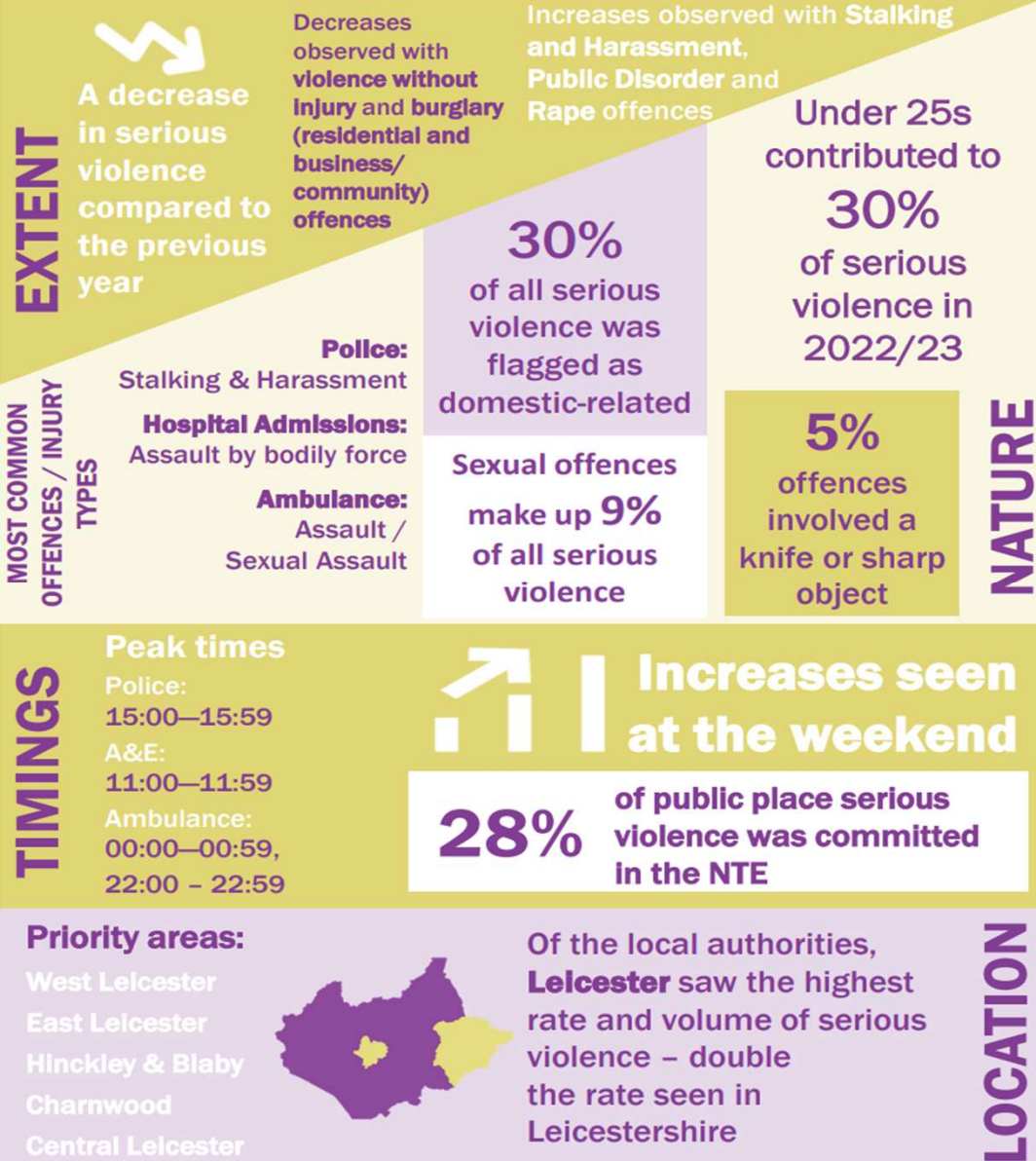
- Exploitation of Prostitution

#### PUBLIC DISORDER:

- Affray/Offences Against State
- Violent Disorder

#### BURGLARY:

- Burglary – Residential (Home) (Aggravated Only)
- Burglary – Residential (Unconnected Building) (Aggravated Only)
- Burglary – Business and Community (Aggravated Only)





# Our Work: Deep Dives

VIOLENCE  
REDUCTION  
NETWORK

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE  
& RUTLAND

Preventing Serious Violence  
After School

VRN Briefing No.8

#PreventionThroughConnection

@VR\_Network

www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk

A map of the Loughborough area showing several heatmaps of violence hotspots. The hotspots are represented by concentric circles of varying colors (blue, green, yellow, orange, red) indicating different levels of risk. Labels on the map include 'Loughborough Academy', 'Loughborough Grammar School', 'Loughborough College', 'Woodbrook Vale', and 'Ruslins Academy'.

RISK FACTORS IN EARLY LIFE TO ADOLESCENCE			
19% were identified as a child in need	33% had parents who were or are involved in offending	50% were persistently absent from school	31% of those aged 16+ were registered as not in education, employment or training
9% have been on a child protection plan	55% have received a suspension or exclusion	20% have been on roll or dual registered at a pupil referral unit	51% had committed their first offence by the age of 14
71% were identified as having special education needs	12% have been or are currently in care	28% had siblings who were or are involved in offending	20% have been reported missing from home
13% have been on an education, health and care plan	29% have witnessed or been the victim of domestic abuse	35% had been a victim or witness of crime by the age of 12	37% had a flag for mental health related concerns

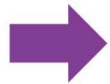
A Social Network Analysis diagram showing a complex web of connections between numerous individuals. The individuals are represented by small circles, and the connections are represented by lines of varying thickness, indicating the strength or type of relationship. The network is dense and interconnected, with many nodes having multiple connections.

Social Network Analysis

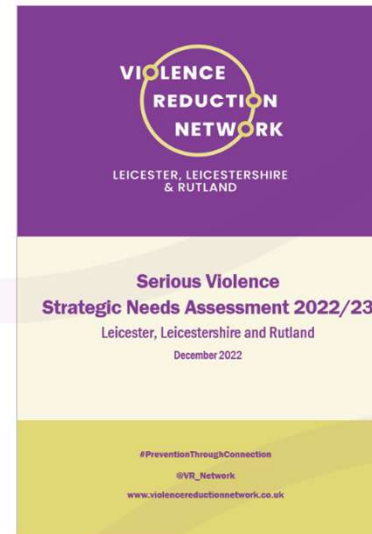
23

# Our Work: Data Sharing and Use

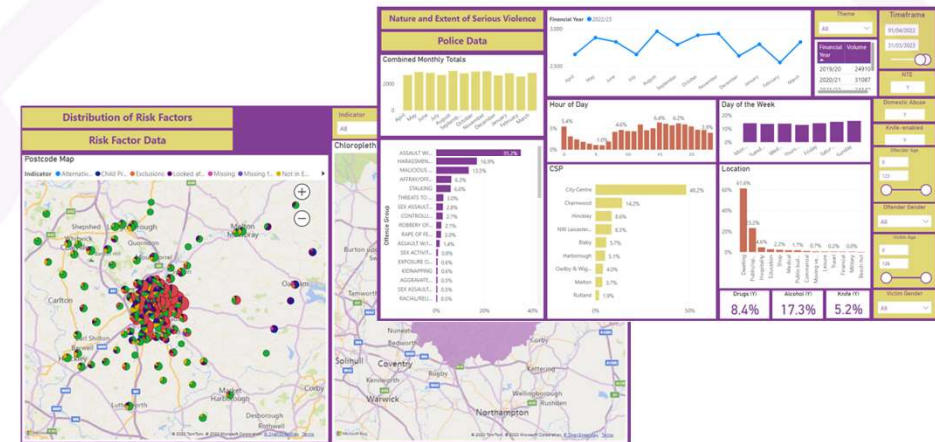
Information  
Sharing  
Agreement



- ✓ Leicestershire Police recorded crime
- ✓ Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (A&E attendances and hospital admissions)
- ✓ East Midlands Ambulance Service
- ✓ Community and Young Person Surveys
- ✓ Commissioned Services / Voluntary and Community Organisations
- ✓ Social care data – Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council
- ✓ Education data – Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council
- ✓ Offending data – Leicestershire Police
- ✓ Anti-social behaviour data – Leicestershire County Council (LLR-wide)
- ✓ National data – Data from the Department for Education, Public Health Profiles and the Office for National Statistics



Multi-Agency Dashboard



# Serious Violence Prevention Strategy



## Our Prevention Priorities

1. **Priority 1:** Providing collaborative and courageous leadership.
2. **Priority 2:** Using data, evidence and evaluation to improve our response.
3. **Priority 3:** Supporting families to provide nurturing and safe environments.
4. **Priority 4:** Building protective and cohesive communities.
5. **Priority 5:** Creating safe and inclusive education settings.
6. **Priority 6:** Connecting young people to purposeful activities and trusted adults.
7. **Priority 7:** Providing opportunities for rehabilitation and recovery.



# Evidence-Based Interventions

VRN	Primary Prevention		Secondary Prevention		Tertiary Prevention	
	Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)	The Reach Programme	Violence Intervention Project (VIP)	The Phoenix Programme		
Data driven need and evidence-informed design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Serious violence is most commonly committed by 10-19-year olds (SNA, 2022)</li><li>Providing quality education in early life and a safe and nurturing educational environment is a protective factor (CDC, 2016)</li><li>Mentoring programmes and social norm change are likely to have a moderate impact of serious violence (YEF 2021)</li><li>Evaluations of MVP show that it is effective in improving attitudes and confidence in intervening</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Widely recognised that school exclusions increases vulnerability and propensity to violence (UK Gov, 2018)</li><li>Exclusions in LLR are unequally distributed – 60% reside in just 10 postcode sectors which are in 'hotspot' areas for serious violence</li><li>Programmes which incorporate intensive mentoring, social skills training, mental health support and recreational activity show promise in prevention serious violence (YEF, 2021; CDC, 2016)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>LLR has higher rates than the national average for assault-related admission for a knife or sharp object, and recent trends show an increase in violence-related attendances to A&amp;E</li><li>Leicester has higher rates of children in the justice system, and the peak ages for committing serious violence is 15-19 followed by 10-14 years.</li><li>A&amp;E Navigator interventions are likely to have a high impact on preventing violence and pre-court diversion programmes a moderate impact (YEF, 2021)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The local rise in SV is directly linked to a group dynamic involving three inter-connected parts: members of OCG, a USG and network of criminally active young people.</li><li>Data shows cohort live in challenging circumstances with layers of vulnerability (e.g. ACEs and trauma, domestic violence, exclusions, substance misuse, live in urban areas with high social deprivation and crime)</li><li>Research suggests focused deterrence (FD) could have a high impact on reducing serious violence (YEF, 2021)</li></ul>		
Description of intervention	The MVP project is a peer-led leadership and bystander programme. MVP trains students as Mentors and equips them with the confidence, knowledge and skills to identify and speak out against bullying, abusive behaviour and violence. It aims to tackle the beliefs, attitudes and culture which can give the message that violence is acceptable. Ultimately MVP promotes the healthy social norms and culture which is known to prevent violence.	The Reach Programme is an intensive six-month mentoring programme aimed at preventing exclusions. At-risk young people receive Social Skills Training, support with their confidence and wellbeing, and opportunities to participate in recreational activity (e.g. sports, arts and music). The Youth Worker will also provide support to the young person's family and work with their friends.	VIP provides timely and tailored support to young people attending A&E or Custody. Commonly referred to as a 'reachable moment', support workers engage with the young person at this critical point and offer support to assist recovery and address pressing issues such as safety and emotional well-being. The workers will continue to support the young person in the community, offering mentoring and practical assistance to empower them to achieve their goals.	The Phoenix Programme offers an age-appropriate, concrete and tailored package of support to participants focussed around hope, opportunity and connection. This is delivered through a multi-agency team which includes community navigators with lived experience. The team delivers in local communities and takes a pro-active approach to engagement. When participants refuse to engage and/or there are concerns in relation to continued harm, the enforcement and disruption element is deployed.		
Target group	11-16 year olds in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	10-17 year olds in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	11-25 year olds who attend A&E for violence related injuries or custody for serious violence offences	10-65 year olds in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland		
<b>Specialist Sport Provision:</b> YEF (2022) rates sport programmes as being likely to have a high impact on crime and violence. This provision will provide young people with swift and long-term access to a broad range of sports and physical activities to run alongside the support that they receive from the intervention which connected with them in a 'reachable space'.						
<b>Specialist ETE Provision:</b> Leicester and Leicestershire have higher rates of young people who are NEET when compared to the national average, and ETE are considered protective factors which reduce the risks of (re)offending. This provision will provide specialist employability support and quick access to credible education, training and employment opportunities.						



# CASE STUDY– Reach Programme

## Reason for referral:

- SM was at risk of further suspension, displaying challenging behaviours, ASB, negative peer influences, substance misuse, breakdown of familial relationships

## Support:

- Allocated YW focused on the relationship building phase, identified needs around aspirations and building confidence and self esteem.
- The co-produced intervention plan showed SM's talent and passion for Graffiti Art. YW and SM planned events that allowed him to paint on a legal wall and purchased art supplies which SM used daily to practise his new skills. This had been fundamental in helping SM build his confidence and increase his self-esteem, providing focus and purpose.

## Outcomes:

- Towards the end of his time on Reach, which coincided with the academic end of year, SM was awarded "Student of the Year" by his school. There had been a significant shift in his behaviours at school as well as an improvement in relationships within the home.
- Furthermore, SM is now also a member of the County's Young Person's Recruitment Panel.

# Our Work: Co-Production

## Participation



## Co-Design



**LIVE SAFE**

## Leadership



## Community Oversight and Scrutiny

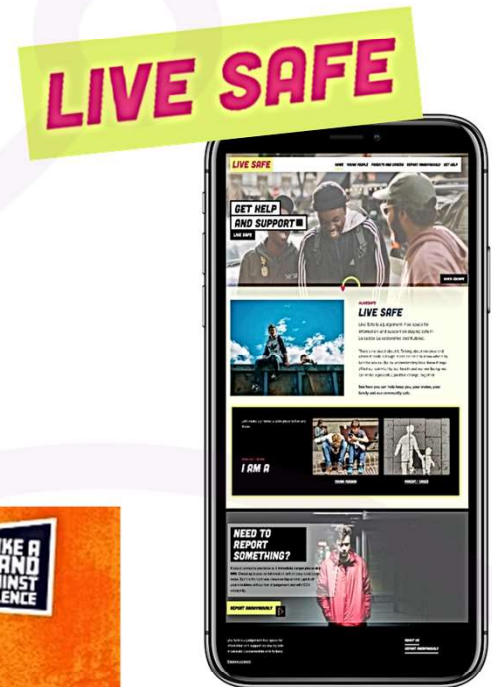


## Co-Delivery



# Our Work: Campaigns

- Evidence-based behavioural change campaigns
- Use of targeted social media to reach communities most affected
- Toolkits and resources for partners to utilise





# Our Work: Evaluation

## 10 STEPS FOR EVALUATION SUCCESS



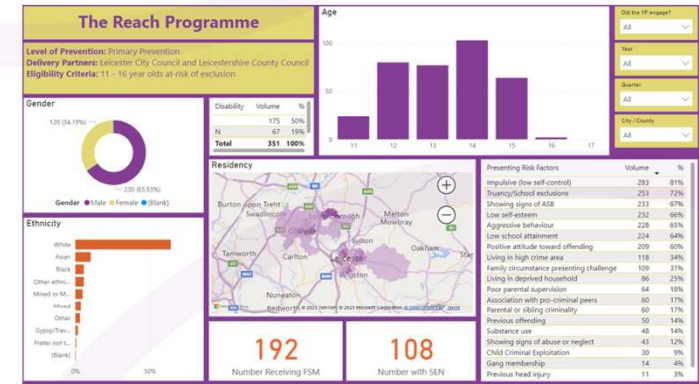
Source: EIF

## Blueprints

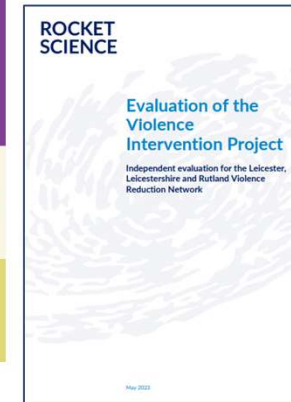
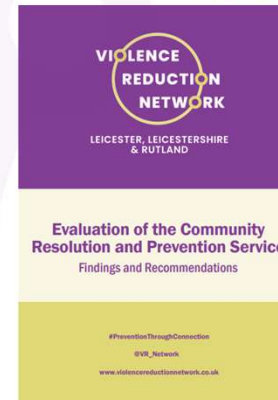


Operating Manual  
Second Edition  
July 2023

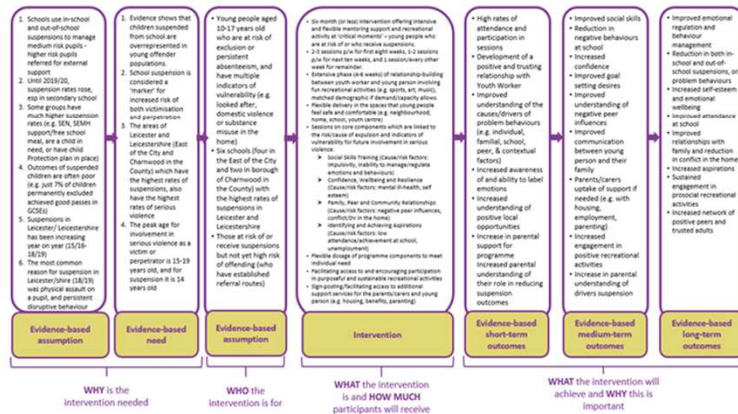
## Outcomes Monitoring Framework and Dashboard



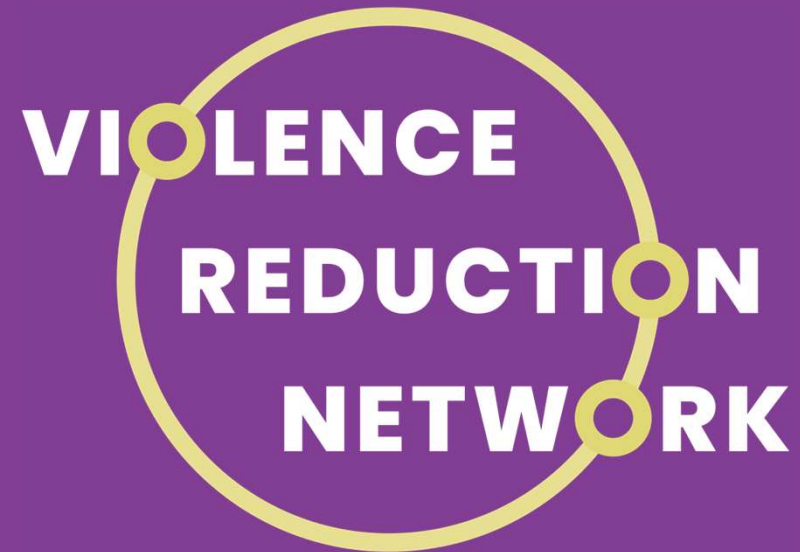
## Feasibility Studies & Evaluations



## Theory of Change







LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE  
& RUTLAND

**Thank you!**

This page is intentionally left blank