



# Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership

Annual Report 2023-24



Avon & Somerset

**Violence  
Reduction  
Partnership**

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Knife crime and serious youth violence have long-term devastating effects on victims, their families, friends, and communities. We have seen some devastating losses of life in Avon and Somerset over the past year, and my thoughts remain with their loved ones. I am also very aware of the impact such catastrophic incidents have on the professionals involved. Including first responders, those supporting the grieving process, and everyone working to ensure justice is delivered, the less discussed ripple effect speaks to the impact on the perpetrator(s) family, friends, and their community.

Serious youth violence is a complex societal issue with many causes and shattering impacts. We understand that these issues cannot and will not be solved overnight or by one agency or organisation working in isolation. We are committed to collaborating with our communities and young people affected by violence to ensure we understand the root causes, identify the solutions that work to reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in these crimes, and direct our resources and efforts accordingly.

This annual report outlines the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership's (ASVRP) achievements, changes, and learnings from the last financial year. This report has been written with the support of the ASVRP Hub team, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), and the ASVRP Spoke Coordinators, and this year we have the pleasure of including various partner updates.

In 2023, we transitioned from the Home Office named Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to a newly branded and named Violence Reduction Partnership, which not only brings together the work of our hub and spoke model but incorporates the new statutory duty requirements, which are placed on statutory agencies. This was one of the many changes our partnership experienced across the last financial year. An external review supported our model but recommended we make some structural changes to our governance model to strengthen our work. This included the reintroduction of our Executive Board and the introduction of a new ASVRP Director position, which I am honoured to have been selected for and started in January 2024.

I am proud of the ASVRP and external partners' achievements over the last year. Through the dedicated Home Office funding for Violence Reduction Units received in 2023/24, fifty-six tailored interventions have been delivered, supporting 1,689 professionals and reaching 18,698 local young people. This report provides detailed information on these achievements as well as some of the wider work being undertaken by ASVRP partners, collectively and individually, to seek to prevent serious youth violence in our communities.

I recognise that the challenges we face, together, are significant. However, I believe that the changes that we have made to our structures, the partnership's dedication to this work, and our recently elected Police and Crime Commissioner, Clare Moody, who is deeply committed to tackling knife crime and its causes (and will be our Board chair), will enable us to move forward with strength.

Natalie Lavis,  
ASVRP Director



## VRP Director Foreword

# Avon and Somerset Serious Violence Statistics 2023/24.



## Street-based Violence and Knife Crime

Over 1,000 more street based violence offences were recorded by Avon and Somerset Police in 2023/24, which is an increase of 9.7% compared to the previous year. A total of 11,689 such offences recorded, with the largest increases in violence with injury offences (which increased by 15.5%) and personal robbery (198 more

offences equating to a 15.9% increase).<sup>1</sup>

Avon and Somerset's 'Most Serious Violence' rate per one thousand population remains below the average of its most similar group of police forces for 2023/24 and is the third lowest within that group. However, it did have the highest rate of personal robbery per one thousand population for the period in that group.<sup>2</sup>

Looking specifically at street-based violence offences involving a knife or bladed article, we saw a 28.6% increase in knife crime tagged street-based violence offences recorded by the police. This equated to an extra 228 offences over the year and included a 16% increase in recorded offences of personal robbery involving a knife (with an additional sixty such robbery offences being recorded).

Avon and Somerset had the eighth highest rate of recorded knife crime offences nationally. However, it should be noted that local recording practices for tagging crimes involving a knife could affect comparisons.

## Homicide

Tragically, in 2023/24 there were 16 non-domestic homicides recorded in Avon and Somerset. As a result, Avon and Somerset Police are comparatively high when compared to similar police force areas for the same period.

## Hospital admissions for knife/sharp object related injuries

The latest available data for NHS admissions for a knife or sharp object related injury covers the 12-month period to 29th February 2024. Compared to the 2019 baseline, Avon and Somerset saw a 29% reduction in such admissions and is below the national average. Looking specifically at admissions of individuals aged under 25 years of age, the number fell to its lowest level since 2014, with less than half of the admissions seen in 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> The ASVRP's activities focuses on street based serious violence. The data represented here relates to a collection of offence types recorded by the police which relate to homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, wounding and GBH. It excludes such offences which have been flagged as relating to domestic abuse.

<sup>2</sup> Most Similar Group is a method of comparing police force areas that share common characteristics. Groupings are set by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. The Most Similar Group of police forces for Avon and Somerset are Derbyshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Staffordshire, and Sussex.

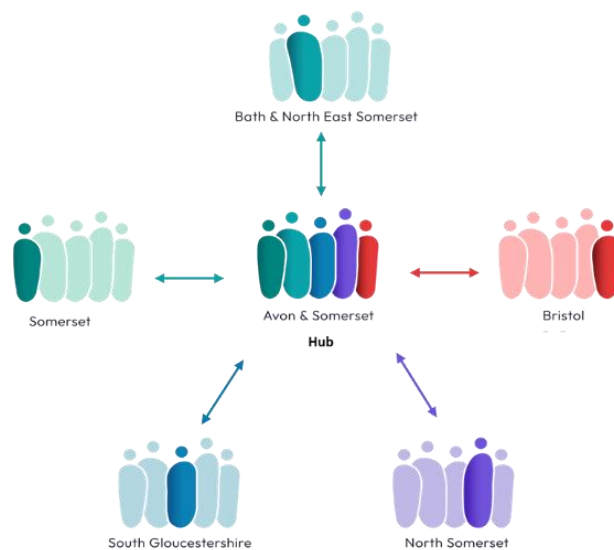




## Overview

The ASVRP continued to operate as a Hub and Spoke model through 2023/24, delivering violence reduction activities and interventions through the five local authority spokes and their local partnerships. The five local authority areas are:

- **Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)**
- **Bristol**
- **North Somerset**
- **Somerset**
- **South Gloucestershire**





# Purpose

Our purpose is to create safer and more resilient communities for now and the generations to come, by reducing serious violent incidents across Avon and Somerset.

# Vision

Our vision is to eliminate serious violence, protect the vulnerable and create safer communities, through the opportunities provided by the evolving Violence Reduction Partnership

# Mission

Our mission is to work collaboratively with partners, to understand and address the root causes of violence in Avon and Somerset, with a focus on education, prevention, and protection.

## Our Partnership:

The ASVRP is overseen by an Executive Board, which meets quarterly to set the partnership's strategic direction. During 2023/24, the board was chaired by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and executive-level representatives attended on behalf of the below partner agencies.



## Organisational Changes in 2023/24

In the summer of 2023, Crest Advisory, a crime and justice consultancy agency, was commissioned by the Avon and Somerset OPCC to review the ASVRP model and our ways of working to tackle serious violence and provide recommendations at both strategic and operational levels.

Following this review, the partnership has transitioned to a new revised ASVRP model, maintaining our Hub and Spoke approach. New structures and working arrangements have been put in place during the year to support the model. This includes the appointment of a VRP Director and a Senior Partnerships and Engagement Manager, who both started their positions in January 2024.

The partnership's strategic function has been strengthened through the establishment of a new Executive Level Partnership Board, an adoption of the new Memorandum of Understanding, the establishment of a specialist data and performance group, as well as the launch of a new website and a unified branding strategy.

## Preparations for the New Serious Violence Duty

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2023, the Serious Violence Duty became a legal requirement under the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022, requiring certain statutory partners to collaborate on the public health agenda to tackle serious violence. It places a duty on police, justice, fire and rescue, health bodies (Integrated Care Boards—ICBs), and local authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Throughout 2023/24, the partnership continued to work together to prepare for the full implementation of the duty in January 2024, which included:

- Working collaboratively to agree a shared definition of serious violence.
- Development of an updated theory of change for the partnership.
- Agree a collective strategy.
- Assess the need across Avon and Somerset by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

## ASVRP Serious Violence Definition

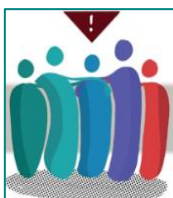
The breadth and complexity of serious violence is vast. In 2023/24, the ASVRP collectively agreed a common definition of serious violence that they would work to, please see below:

The ASVRP embraces a priority focus on the prevention and reduction of public space violence for under 25s (children and young people); including homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, wounding, grievous bodily harm, knife and gun crime, alcohol and drug related violence and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines and modern slavery. We also recognise and commit to supporting a joined-up response to existing partnership work to tackle serious violence across the whole pathway and in the broadest sense, including domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences and violence against women and girls more generally.



# ASVRP Strategy 2024

In January 2024, the ASVRP published its Serious Violence Strategy for 2024/25, which set out nine Strategic Commitments for the year 2024-25.



## People

- 1. Interventions:**  
Commission and fund interventions and responses that address the causes of serious violence, reduce known risk factors, and strengthen protective factors.
- 2. Risk identification:**  
Ensure that the right people and places are being identified and that people can access the right support.
- 3. Hotspots and contextual responses:**  
Develop and embed multi-agency responses to serious violence hotspots and build the evidence base for contextual safeguarding responses.



## Places

- 1. Engagement:**  
Build and develop meaningful engagement approaches and offer coproduction opportunities to involve those with lived experience.
- 2. Local opportunities:**  
Contribute to building opportunities for young people and tackling disproportionality within our most affected communities facing serious violence.
- 3. Awareness and resilience:**  
Build awareness and drive community led counternarratives to serious violence.



## Partners

- 1. Leadership:**  
Drive system changes through implementation of coordinated and shared responsibility of key partners.
- 2. Data and evidence:**  
Develop and build multi-agency data, insights, and evidence to increase our ability to make an impact.
- 3. Sustainability:**  
Drive cultural and financial sustainability consideration to continue the work of the VRP beyond 2025.

The VRP Hub Team will continue to work with the Local VRPs and the wider partnership throughout 2024/25 to support effective delivery of the partnership's work in line with these nine strategic commitments.





# ASVRP Strategic Needs Assessment

In January 2024, the ASVRP also finalised its 2024 Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA). The SNA is key to the ASVRP approach. It records a diverse combination of viewpoints to enrich our understanding of serious violence. Our response continues to be through a ‘public health approach,’ which treats violence like an infectious disease. It involves multiple public and social services working together to implement early interventions to prevent people from becoming involved in violent crime. We also search for a ‘cure’ by using scientific evidence to both identify what causes violence and find interventions that work to prevent it from spreading.

Work to deliver the SNA was led by the Data Analysis for Management and Performance and Evaluation Group (DAMPEG) that was formed in September 2023. DAMPEG brings together data analysts from across the partners to share data, identify gaps, and collate information.



## Raising Awareness of the ASVRP

Until now, the achievements and work of the ASVRP have not been widely publicised. Raising awareness of the ASVRP, the unique model, collaborative working, and tailored interventions will not only build confidence but empower our communities to support the reduction of serious violence. This in turn will aid the ASVRP in achieving our purpose of creating a safer Avon and Somerset for now and the generations to come. It was recognised that to achieve this would require the development of a clear and identifiable brand that supports the hub and spoke model.



### Re-Branding

In 2023, the ASVRP Communications Manager collaborated with the ASVRP Hub and Spoke teams to establish and agree on the purpose, mission, vision, goals, tone of voice, design aspirations, and needs of the new branding. This resulted in the newly named ASVRP and a new logo design, with the core logo dividing into the five individually coloured spoke logos.

The individual spoke colours that compliment their local community safety partnership, council, or similar. They also enable each spoke to remain unique to their area while being a part of the wider ASVRP. An ASVRP branding guideline provides an overview of how the new brand is to be used and implemented.

### ASVRP Social Media

ASVRP now has one dedicated Facebook page and X account to raise awareness, highlight interventions, and provide advice where appropriate.

### 2023 OPCC Councilor Forums

Towards the end of 2023, the OPCC hosted follow-up Councilor Forums across Avon and Somerset for local councillors to receive a progress update on the Police and Crime Plan priorities from the PCC and an update from local neighbourhood police since the last forum. An invitation was extended to the ASVRP spoke coordinators, who gave an overview of the ASVRP model and details of local partnership activities and initiatives.

### ASVRP Launch Event

The new ASVRP brand launched internally in December 2023. The launch was also a celebration of the ASVRP collective accomplishments to date. Speakers included the ASVRP Spoke Coordinators, who presented on their area's accomplishments and future goals.



Additionally, an internal write-up on the new ASVRP brand and launch was posted internally to all Avon and Somerset Police staff.





## Partnership Working

In 2023/24, the ASVRP continued to engage with a wide range of partners to support their collaborative work, at both the overarching Avon and Somerset level and within the local VRP Spokes. This has included working with:

- Community groups,
- Educational establishments,
- Local voluntary, charity, and social enterprises (VCSE) sector,
- Statutory services like the South West Ambulance Service Trust and the NHS.

The partnership has also continued to expand its focus on engaging young people and their parents/carers to help shape local activity's focus on serious violence. To date this has included offering:

- Consultations,
- Co-production events,
- Local workshops,
- Surveys.



## Collaborating with Parents

The Bristol VRP is a brilliant example of positive partnership working with parents and carers. Their Bristol parent groups offer a safe space, advice, information, and peer learning opportunities and have also included guest speakers, sharing their knowledge to empower the parents/carers. These groups are very much community/parent led, with some fantastic repeat attendees. Over seventy-five individuals have attended over this last financial year, and support was provided to seven siblings.

Following the tragic deaths of young people in Bristol, the partnership has worked closely with existing parents and partner organisations across the city to co-produce parents' programs and workshops.

The Bristol VRP met with different parents to identify what the need was to support them in safeguarding their children from exploitation. They have now delivered a series of workshops in each locality with specialist guest speakers and experts on a variety of areas, including education, exploitation, local services, stop and search rights, and information on the Bristol VRP team.

Bristol VRP recognises that there is more to be done in this area, and as we move into 2024/25, the aim is to expand the opportunities for young people and parents/carers to help shape how we respond to violence.



## ASVRP Achievements

Under the Hub and Spoke model operating in Avon and Somerset, the five local VRP spokes lead on the identification of risk and vulnerability. They design and deliver interventions that meet local needs. This work involves working with young people, partners, professionals, and parents/carers.

Each of the local VRP spokes received a share of the funding provided to Avon and Somerset by the Home Office to support work on tackling serious youth violence in 2023/24 to support the delivery of a range of interventions at the local level. In 2023/24, this funding supported:







The five local VRP spokes have delivered a range of services and support to help reduce serious violence across 2023/24. This has included direct support for young people as well as advice and support for parents/carers and professionals who work with young people.

The interventions and support provided for young people have been varied, reflecting the differing needs across our diverse geography. Some interventions are targeted directly at young people who are already involved with the criminal justice system or serious violence. Other interventions seek to support young people who may be deemed at risk of becoming involved in serious violence, either as a victim or an offender. Finally, some interventions are delivered at the population level, targeting all young people in a particular age or in a particular location.

Initiatives for professionals, parents, and carers have included parenting support groups for knife crime and social media awareness training.

The following pages in this section are an overview of each of the local VRP spokes, which includes key activities and achievements and plans for the next financial year.





## Somerset VRP

**Overview:** Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership is a subgroup of the Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP) to enable partners to work together to understand and reduce serious violence.

### Key Achievements

- A newly formed local VRP partnership has been established.
- £439,194 of Home Office VRU and Serious Violence Duty grants have been allocated to Somerset VRP to enable the commissioning of local interventions and services.
- 229 young people established as being at risk have received support.
- More than 10,000 young people have been reached through Somerset VRP communications and engagement work.
- Somerset VRP have worked in partnership with North Somerset Council to provide a Safer Streets program to help raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls.

### Somerset VRP Reach:

118  
professionals

Somerset VRP reached professionals through training and interventions.

229  
young people

Somerset VRP worked with young people through interventions including teachable moments, sports mentoring, crime prevention and Admit.

### 4 Interventions Delivered:

- **Admit:** Two Substance Misuse Workers sit within two hospital A&E departments during the weekend nights. Any young person who is admitted with an injury or suspected risk from violence or exploitation is offered support.
- **Sports Mentoring:** Young people at risk from ASB or violence are provided with holistic mentoring and supported into community activities. Sports mentors worked with 58 young people and 96 professionals.
- **Teachable moments:** 1:1 support is provided with a variety of tools that provide social skills tailored to a young person's needs. This has covered areas such as anger and stress management, relaxing techniques, healthy relationship work, and reflection techniques.

### Communication and Engagement 2023-24:

- The partnership promoted the Ben Kinsella Trust campaign in support of national knife crime awareness week (15-21 May 2023). Providing all Somerset secondary schools with Fearless knife crime and bystander guides.
- Somerset VRP conducted a town centre youth safety campaign and consultation with over 1,300 young people. This is part of two new problem-solving plans for key hotspots in Somerset where young people are affected by violence. [More details are available here.](#)
- Safer Streets funding was used to deliver a school pod cast competition to raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls. [See the results here.](#)



## Plans for 2024-2025:

The newly formed Somerset VRP held its first meeting in May 2024. The partnership is made up of specified authorities who work together on the serious violence duty. The specified authorities are Police, Justice (including youth offending), Fire, Health, and the Local Authority. Additional support from education and the voluntary sector is also being requested. Somerset VRP will bring partners together with a focus on:

- Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery,
- Persistent or escalating Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB),
- Serious and Organised Crime, including drug distribution networks,
- Serious Violence, including serious youth violence,
- Sexual Violence,
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

## Priorities for Somerset VRP 2024-25 for young people:

- Commissioning of YEF evaluated interventions in Somerset VRP delivery plan. [Click here to find out more on the YEF Toolkit.](#)
- Focussing on place-based approaches in areas where young people are affected (including town centre safety).
- Developing a multi-agency serious violent incident response protocol.
- Further identifying and agreeing effective pathways for the early identification of violence.

### Admit Case Study

A young person had presented at hospital after banging his head against a wall, the Admit worker was able to talk with them and it became apparent that they had been using illicit diazepam, drinking alcohol, and had begun using heroin. The Admit worker offered support and established that they had a Somerset Drugs and Alcohol (SDAS) worker but had disengaged. Following this engagement, the ADMIT project was able to re-establish communication between the young person and their SDAS worker.





## Bath & North East Somerset VRP

**Overview:** The Bath & North East Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (B&NESVRP) is a multi-agency group that aims to prevent and reduce violence in the area. They work together to understand and address the root causes of violence and identify and support young people engaged in (or at risk of) serious violence to reduce and prevent violent crimes from occurring in the future. They also provide resources and support the work of professionals and community groups who help children who have been affected by serious violence.

### B&NES VRP Reach:

420  
individuals

B&NESVRP supported the delivery of parental engagement interventions to individuals over the age of 24 years (predominately parents/carers).

322  
professionals

B&NESVRP supported the delivery of a professionals' conference and interventions which included street doctors training, education inclusion work and contingency funding.

2,290  
young people

B&NESVRP supported the delivery of interventions for young people, including detached youth work, lived experienced mentoring and education inclusion work.

### 7 Interventions Delivered:

- **Conference and parental engagement events:** Delivered a series of parental knife awareness events to support and educate parents and carers using a harm reduction model. B&NESVRP also hosted their third annual conference, with a keynote speaker. In 2023/24, they reached 112 parents/carers and 90 professionals.
- **Contingency Fund:** Providing positive activities or specialist support for individuals who have been discussed at the Operational Partnership meeting. This work supported 8 young people and worked with 110 professionals.
- **Detached Youth Work:** The partnership delivered detached outreach sessions across identified areas where children are at risk of serious youth violence. Youth Workers offered positive activities and developed working relationships over time. This has reached 2,214 young people under the age of 24 years.
- **Education Inclusion Project:** Working to prevent children from being permanently excluded (PEX'ed) by offering out-of-school provisions with study and support to enable the individual to gain qualification(s). This project finished with a managed return to school plan. To date, 36 young people and 9 professionals have engaged.
- **Social Media and Youth Violence:** Delivery of workshops and training on the effects of social media and youth violence. This was provided to 28 professionals.



## Interventions Deliver Continued...

- **Lived Experience Mentoring:** Local lived experience mentors support and positively influence the behaviour of children who have been exploited, are involved, or are at risk of becoming involved in serious violence. Five young people have engaged in this project to date.
- **Street Doctors:** These harm reduction training sessions equip individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to act in a medical situation and pass on their learning to children and young adults. Alongside this, 33 group sessions were provided to children and young people, which included a specific app being downloaded onto 100 individual phones (these were young people who were unable to engage in groups). To date, 85 professionals have received this training.

## Plans for 2024/25

- **Detached Youth Work (DYW):** The collaborative partnership delivering detached, outreach sessions across B&NES in identified areas, known as 'hotspots', where children are at risk of serious youth violence. Detached youth workers go into the local community and engage with young people in the places they socialise and/or hotspots, as well as providing positive activities. Over time, the workers also build purposeful working relationships with the children and young people and are then able to discuss a range of issues, including serious violence.
- **Events:** B&NESVRP will continue to deliver a series of parental awareness events, focusing on knife and bladed article crime, with a focus on exploitation and grooming.
- **Lived Experience Mentoring (LEM):** Local lived experience mentors support and positively influence the behaviour of children and young people who have been exploited, involved, or at risk of involvement in serious violence. They aim to provide positive experiences to enable them to feel empowered. Many become peer mentors and support others within the local community.
- **Training:** Professionals working with children and young adults who are at risk of serious violence play an important part in a local response. Due to the sizable gap in understanding how and what impact social media has on youth violence and given children's access to social media and the internet, this will be the focus of this year's professionals' training, building on what was provided in 2023/24, with input from the professionals.
- **Alternative Route (AR) Programme:** An all-round in-school approach that was developed for children, their parents/carers, and professionals. Using the latest research and practical knowledge in psychology, criminology, and youth work, blended with providers' expertise to help combat the complex issue of youth violence and conflict in educational settings. This comprehensive approach covers youth violence, conflict, with a particular focus on conflict in educational settings, and adaptability, emotional resilience to encourage children and young adults to make positive choices when faced with life dilemmas. The mentoring is delivered in both groups and 1-2-1 settings, working to empower, support, and guide the young people. Parents and carers also received support.





## Detached Youth Work Case Study

B&NESVRP supported young people who had been involved in various occasions around fatal stabbings and serious youth violence. The partnership offered extensive 1-1 and group intervention support for witnesses. This was a fast collaborative response and included:

- Youth Connect adjusted the girls' group work to support those who witnessed the stabbing and offered extra support in school.
- Project 28 shifted their focus to grief and trauma with their 1-1 interventions for those who witnessed the murder.
- Our detached youth workers remained a stable point of contact, being a consistent presence around the city centre to ensure the young people felt reassured and safe. This has been hugely beneficial and valuable with the young people being open with their trauma and grief.
- The B&NESVRP organised an ice-skating trip for the regular individuals.
- We were able to complete more targeted work with individuals causing concerns with positive results.

## Bright Futures Feedback

*This young person had a great introduction, was engaged and open to the coaching. She talked about her friendship group, and we were able to explore how her life could become more peaceful. She also spoke in justice feelings felt when someone had been racist to her and how she didn't feel the school has handled it well. We were able to focus on what she can do and how this new strategy could be taken through into her adulthood. The worker had a productive conversation with the team at school regarding her complaint. The positive coaching aims to make an impact and build a bridge between Mum and the school, which is key for longer happiness in school.*

## Education Inclusion Project (EIP) Feedback

*This young person really enjoyed his MIAG placement, and mentors commented that he was a joy to support. This young person embraced trying new things and had a 100% attendance. He particularly enjoyed the Football academy GOALS sessions, where he was an active member of the group. He reflected on his learning and was able to make sensible, confident decisions, avoiding any altercations.*

## Lived Experience Mentoring (LEM) Feedback

- *This young person has engaged well, and his dad said his behaviour has improved at home.*
- *This young person has engaged well, and her family now attend the Hub group, as well as meeting her independently.*





## South Gloucestershire VRP

### Overview:

The South Gloucestershire Violence Reduction Partnership (SGVRP) is made up of professionals from the Council, Education, Police, Public Health, and Youth Outreach. Together they work to identify challenging behaviours in young people and intervene quickly to prevent serious violence.

SGVRP uses a trauma-based public health approach, by looking at violent behaviour as an illness and investigating the root cause/s of why someone is using violence. Early intervention can prevent and reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in violence or criminal behaviour.

## South Gloucestershire VRP Reach.

2,744  
young people

SGVRP reached young people through the delivery of interventions, including detached youth work, mentoring, teachable moment work, Blunt Truth, The Wheel Project, and more.

204  
professionals

SGVRP delivered trauma training to local professionals who work with young people and a resilience and social skills workshop with young people and their teachers in school.

## 14 Interventions Delivered:

- **Education Inclusion Project:** Supporting young people at risk of permanent exclusion and/or risk of serious youth violence; a specialist team mentor within YPS to advocate, offer resources, and develop the young person's techniques. This includes de-escalation, communication skills, meta cognition, consequential thinking, and relationship building. The staff collaborates with the young person, parents, and school to remove and resolve the barriers to keeping them in education.
- **ManKind:** This train the trainer program for South Gloucestershire professionals aims to highlight the behaviour of toxic masculinity and support young people in changing their way of thinking to encourage healthier relationships.
- **Unique Voice: Belonging:** This creative PSHE early intervention educational day worked with young people in school years 5 and 6, supporting them with their transition into secondary school.
- **Blunt Truth:** A workshop delivered to school years 8 and 9. Raising awareness around reporting and increasing knowledge of medical consequences with the aim to reduce incidences and the impacts of violent crime among young people.
- **Parent Support Group:** For parents and carers of children and young people involved and/or on the periphery of serious violence and exploitation. The support offers a combination of 1-2-1 support, peer support, developing community networks, and building safety and support for siblings.



## Interventions Delivered Continued...

- **Sports Mentoring (Empire Fighting Chance):** delivered to young people who are considered at risk of anti-social behaviour, providing holistic mentoring and integration into community activities.
- **Street Doctors:** delivering emergency first aid training to empower young people affected by violence to help keep themselves and others safe. Young people gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to act in a medical emergency while understanding the medical consequences of violence.
- **Trauma recovery focused training:** specifically for the exploitation and police teams. This training enabled them to provide trauma-informed support to young people at high risk of exploitation and serious youth violence.
- **Teachable Moment:** offering tailored interventions on healthy relationships in targeted secondary schools in higher demand communities.
- **The Wheels Project:** Kart driving, Kart building, and vehicle maintenance courses offered to high-risk young people who are not in education.
- **Youth Detached Work:** This assertive outreach covers all of South Gloucestershire. Youth Workers attend locations where young people are known to hang out, building working relationships and give advice (when appropriate) and signposting to services.
- **Resilience and social skill work:** gender-specific group work delivered in schools and in the community/youth provisions. Working on resilience, building self-esteem/confidence, prevention of exploitation, and healthy relationships.

## Plans for 2024-25

A range of new interventions include:

- **BeXcellence** is a mentoring intervention for high-risk young people. Delivered by a lived-experience mentor.
- **Commission Horse World** to provide a self-growth and confidence therapeutic intervention to young people who have experienced adverse childhood experiences and/or are not in education.
- **Doris Mobile Youth Bus:** SGVRP contributed towards a mobile youth bus in 2023/24. This mobile unit (Doris) will launch this year to deliver detached youth sessions in rural communities, hotspot areas, and at local engagement events from 2024 and beyond.
- **Youth Fest** will be a series of workshops for young people, aimed at capturing their voice and perspective on knife crime, exploitation, and serious youth violence.

### Empire Fighting Chance - Boxing Careers Programme

**Case Study:** *Throughout the programme, this young person gradually opened up to the coaches, sharing the challenges they had faced and their desire to make positive changes in their life. Their primary goal was to return to education or secure employment. Recognising these aspirations, we directed the young person to our Box Careers Programme to provide them with additional support they needed to pursue their goal. The coaches observed their notable progress and how they embraced the Empire Principles, including the growth mindset and the importance of taking ownership rather than adopting a victim mentality.*



**Example of making a difference:** Towards the end of 2023, a school referred a student to the local partnership, which meets fortnightly to discuss and assess children or young people with emerging concerns and agree on the most suitable intervention. The school made the referral as they were concerned about several conflicts this young person was having with a few of their peers. The young person was also identified as potentially being linked to an urban street gang, had conducted a robbery, posted photos of themselves with a weapon on social media, and had been involved in several assaults, some involving a weapon.

This partnership agreed for this young person to receive support from Young People's Support, Young Person's Drugs and Alcohol Service (YPDAS), the Police EIT, and education. They also were supported in getting involved with Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). Earlier this year their risk was reduced, and they were subsequently removed from active monitoring by the partnership. Unexpectedly, they sent a series of text message. In one of the texts messages, they said: *"Thank you for just sitting and talking with me because that's all I needed."* Having enjoyed the MMA, they also texted, *"I am now working towards going into fighting professionally and it's going well."*

The SGVRP Coordinator said, *"It is not easy to evidence that our partnership working makes a difference to the lives of our young people but when we do receive direct feedback and thanks it makes my heart sing."*

**Education Inclusion Project (EIP) Case Study:** *Student X was often lashing out at school when dis-regulated. Their behaviour escalated through the school behaviour system, and they were coming to attention of the community. The EIP Education Worker reported that the student had described a variety of problems, was easily distracted and often fidgeted. Separate work was done with the young person's family. The Education Worker provided the young person with:*

- *Coping methods to avoid risky situations. Improving social anxiety through sports.*
- *Supported an English class move. Supporting both ADHD and SALT assessments.*
- *Receiving a time out card/accessing the school Hub. Understanding the effects of a criminal record.*

### Feedback

- *'It's been useful. It always calms me down. When I got into school on a Monday my first thought is when's it going to be Wednesday.'* **Young person**
- *"Thank you for the amazing work you and your team have done for our SG children - I've been so impressed with the care and support that has been given to some of our most vulnerable children in the sector."* **Headteacher**

**The Wheels Project Feedback:** *Thank you so much for everything you and your team has done for my son I think without you guy's my son wouldn't be the person he is today. You have provided support, consistency, advice, always there to listen to the worries and difficulties he faced or had. I think with the consistency and hard work from you and your team is very important to the young people, to have them picked up from home by the same people all the time I feel that this is very important to them, as this kind of thing/consistency builds up a bond, having the same person working with the young people all the time."* **Parent.**





## North Somerset VRP

**Overview:** The North Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (NSVRP) operates with a public health approach to violence reduction, focusing on understanding the causes of violence and the reasons why people get drawn into a life of crime.

The NSVRP comprises of a:

- VRP Coordinator,
- VRP Project Officer,
- Embedded police, which includes:
  - Sergeant,
  - Police Officers,
  - Police Community Support Officers.

With its partners, the NSVRP works to identify risk and vulnerability; in doing so, it works to address the underlying causes of violent crime, deliver bespoke care plans, offer specialist interventions, and/or work with the family or education service to ensure diversion is achieved.

## North Somerset VRP Reach

**6,500 people**

A variety of community engagements raised awareness and provided key messaging on serious violence.

**6,100 students**

Primary and secondary students received in-school interventions and projects, including Blunt Truth, Social Media Awareness, and Mini Police.

**200 professionals**

A 'Risk Outside The Home' conference was facilitated by NSVRP in January 2024. Local professionals (who work with young people) learnt about the risks young people face outside the home.

## 15 Interventions Delivered

NSVRP successfully delivered fifteen interventions, as well as additional projects and support, including.

- **5-pound Bike Shop:** two schools supported the creation of a low-cost bike repair shop, enabling 74 students to build communication skills and practical skills in repairing a bike.
- **Art Therapy:** 3 secondary school-aged young people who have been identified with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and/or past Trauma received support from a specialist therapist. Therapy is in an art-based setting and includes art activities with a focus on behavioural and emotion management.





## Interventions Continued...

- **Blunt Truth:** 990 secondary school aged young people and 30 professionals received this workshop to increase their awareness around reporting, knowledge of medical consequences, and the impacts violent crime has on young people.
- **Community Engagement Roadshow Events:** Included a variety of activities from community engagement days/events, thematic engagement workshops, primary and secondary school pop-up shops, and days and/or weeks of action. This work reached 4,047 young people (under 24 years), 1,040 individuals (over 25 years), and 129 professionals.
- **Community Sports:** Set in areas with high deprivation and serious violence. 293 young people were supported into local community projects; this included those whose families may not otherwise be able to afford to send them.
- **Mini Police:** 1,102 primary school-aged young people had a local PCSO attend their school and run mini police sessions as part of the National Volunteer Police Cadets. Providing a fun and interactive way to introduce children to a positive experience of policing and to get them involved in their local community.
- **Play Therapy:** A specialist therapist worked with five primary school-aged young people who were identified with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and/or past trauma. Therapy is in a play-based setting and includes role play, activities, and behavioural and emotion management.
- **Social Media Awareness:** NSVRP youth insight established a need for both students and professionals to receive social media awareness training, due to social media being increasingly used to coordinate and arrange violence. Collaborate Digital delivered their workshop to 2,300 young people (aged under 24 years) and 20 professionals.
- **Conference:** In January 2024, NSVRP funded and supported the organisation and delivery of a professionals' conference in Weston Super Mare, including St Giles Trust training two hundred professionals on county lines and knife crime.
- **St. Giles Trust in schools:** County lines and knife crime awareness sessions delivered to 1,876 young people in school years 5-7 and 44 professionals.
- **Start to Finish:** Funding a Start to Finish worker who supported forty-two young people aged between 16 and 25 years involved in or at risk of being involved in violence who had been identified by VRP, Social Care, Youth Offending Service, and others. Wraparound support included finding employment, securing accommodation, reducing criminal involvement, addressing substance misuse, and improving social skills.
- **The Hangar:** During term time, thirty-six young people (aged under 24 years) attended The Hangar to learn new life skills, such as carpentry, metal work, cooking, and managing money (to name a few). Each session is followed by physical exercise within the gym.
- **YMCA Project:** The southward area of Weston has a high level of deprivation and is one of North Somerset's highest demand areas. The YMCA delivered a peer mentoring project in the area to identify twenty-six local young people aged between 16-21 years. The young people are supported into becoming peer mentors for a younger peer(s).



## Plans for 2024/2025

A range of interventions are planned, including but not limited to:

- Hosting Knife Angel in May 2024 in Weston Super Mare, with a month-long program of events including awareness sessions, education, and engagement throughout NS.
- Expanding youth detached outreach, supporting more local young people.
- Reaching more young people through St. Giles Trust, delivering 40 sessions focussing on gangs and county lines.

### Blunt Truth Feedback:

*"We found the sessions purposeful and pitched at a level that allowed students to think about the choices that were being made and guide them in decisions that they may be faced with. Students were engaged throughout and able to ask purposeful questions that showed a good understanding of the subject matter delivered. A very worthwhile, meaningful session."*

*"The Blunt Truth sessions were excellent! The delivery of the session was pitched just right, and students were engaged from the outset. The Team delivering the sessions were experienced, knowledgeable and students could pick up on this, and felt safe learning such hard-hitting material as a result. I have encouraged other local schools to get involved and would highly recommend being part of this fantastic initiative that supports the safety of our young people and our community." **School***

### Collaborate Digital Feedback:

*"The workshops in particular have been really helpful for our students to get the conversation started around their privacy settings and talking about the benefits and risks of using social media." **School***

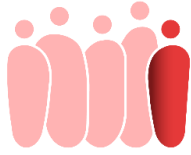
### Collaborate Digital Student Feedback:

- *"I enjoyed it due to being allowed the freedom to give my honest story and opinion."*
- *"I'll think more often about how I act online and who I talk to."*

### ROTH Conference Feedback:

- *"Great conference, really insightful! I learned so much, thank you again for organizing."*
- *"It was a brilliant conference and learnt so much. I would recommend it to other colleagues."*





## Bristol VRP

### Overview: The Bristol Violence Reduction Partnership

(BVRP) is part of Bristol's Safer Options, which is a multi-agency approach to tackling Serious Youth Violence (SYV), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Their approach involves coordinating work across a spectrum of organisations to deliver services that tackle contextual safeguarding issues to create protective plans to reduce the risk to vulnerable young people and support those young people who are involved in SYV or CCE. They work closely with:

- Communities,
- Local Voluntary and Community organisations,
- Statutory services,
- Young people.

The Bristol VRP (with Safer Options) has responded to the needs of young people through the commissioning of a variety of community organisations to deliver interventions across the city. Each locality team is also involved in developing relevant projects, procedures, practices, and community initiatives to respond to the needs of the young people in their area.

## Bristol VRP Reach

**420  
People**

Local professionals who work with young people received training.

**511  
Professionals**

A variety of interventions were delivered to young people; they ranged from 1-2-1 mentoring, detached youth work, school prevention workshops, gender-specific targeted support, and education inclusion work.

**1,623  
Students**

Individuals over the age of 24 received interventions from parents and carers, the families and communities' program, community mentoring, and detached youth work.

## 10 Interventions Delivered

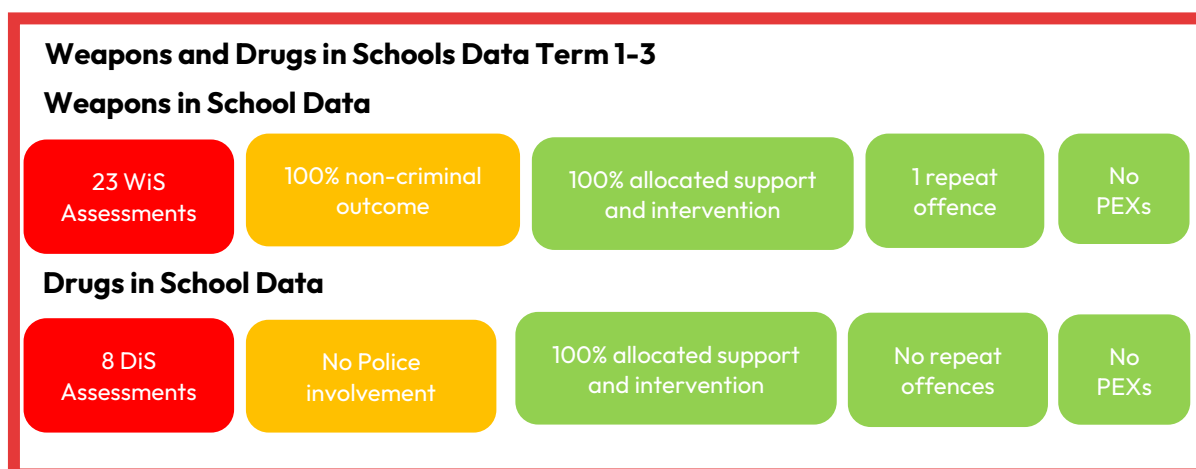
BVRP successfully delivered ten interventions, as well as additional projects and support. Including:

- **1-2-1 mentoring:** Multiple organisations delivered a bespoke individual, trauma-informed package of support to 70 young people and 34 individuals aged over 24 years. Primarily targeting boys and young men.
- **Detached multi-agency youth work:** Delivered in identified areas across the city to meet young people where they are, engage with, and develop relationships with them. Providing support to help young people make positive choices and understand the consequences of poor choices.



## Interventions Continued...

- **Education inclusion:** delivered specialist educational resources, consultation, and advice to 663 young people (up to the age of 24 years) and 223 individuals (over the age of 25 years) in partnership with their education provider.
- **Families and community's program:** Support was provided to 65 individuals (over the age of 25 years) and included 1-2-1 support, community resilience, development of resources, train the trainer session, and targeted interventions.
- **Girls and young women targeted work:** 133 girls and young females' (under the age of 24 years) built their resilience, self-esteem, confidence, and understanding of a healthy relationship.
- **Targeted outreach work: high-risk over 18s:** Outreach youth workers supported 5 young people to address their underlying factors and drivers of serious violence. Working on safe spaces, healing, and trauma-informed practice.
- **Parenting support groups:** 76 Parents and carers of children and young people involved and/or on the periphery of serious youth violence and exploitation received a combination of 1-2-1 support and peer support to develop community networks to build safety. Strategies and support were also put in place to protectively support 7 siblings.
- **Prevention workshops:** Supported 313 identified young people (under the age of 24 years) on serious youth violence, exploitation, county lines, knife crime, and/or negative influences of social media people to raise their aspirations.
- **Targeted group:** Project workers worked with 155 young people aged between 11-25 years who had been identified as being involved in CCE and/or SYV. They shared their experiences, challenges, and perspectives around living in the community in an open and safe space.
- **Weapons and Drugs Workshops:** Youth Justice Workers delivered this bespoke work to schools for 54 young people. Aimed at diverting them from exclusion and avoiding a criminal justice outcome. This impact can be seen in the graphic below, which shows the data from September 2023 to February 2024.



## Plans for 2024/25

Over the next year BVRP (with Safer Options) will continue to build on the successes with partners to continue:

- **1 to 1 community mentoring:** Community organisations across the city provided mentors with 'lived experience' to work with young people at medium or high risk of exploitation and serious youth violence. Developing bespoke packages of support to meet the needs and interests of the individual young person to increase the likelihood of engagement and positive outcomes.

*“So happy to see a role model from my community who can listen to my problems, hopes and makes me feel safe, doesn't invade my private space and helped me to be a better version of myself.”* **Male, 16.**

- **Multi-agency detached youth work** in identified hot spot areas across the city where there is concern about organised exploitation of children or missing children—meeting the young people where they are to develop working relationships. This included pop-up youth activities, responding to serious incidents, involvement and support in contextual safeguarding assessment, and late-night detached youth work.
- **Parent support programs** are a community-based support network in a safe space where parents and carers can discuss their concerns, share lived experience, and learn from one another.
- Throughout the year, BVRP plans to deliver **Community Engagement Events** that reach residents in different communities to develop meaningful conversations with the community (including young people) to build on their understanding of issues linked to violence and influence the strategic approach with the violence reduction interventions.
- To **support VCS organisations** and build capacity and sustainability, BVRP will offer various training opportunities.

**Project Hope** is a new intervention for 2024/25 that offers life coaching and mentoring support whilst a young person is in HMP Bristol prison, in custody, and on their return to the community. Providing advice and advocacy, workshops, and activity away days. Project Hope aims to:

- Address and give notice to the psychological experiences of young people facing detention.
- Allow young people to develop trusting relationships with adults and those in authority.
- Empower the young people to be able to make safer choices in an environment where they feel relaxed, nurtured, and in control.
- Give young people knowledge and confidence to know how to keep them and their friends safe, recognising that peers are often far more influential than professionals and parents.
- Provide safe, nurturing, and calm spaces for young people to begin to heal and reflect. Collaboratively work with the VCS to meet the needs of young people on the intervention.







## SpACE workshop Feedback:

BVRP supported the delivery of their SpACE workshops in multiple schools across Bristol. These targeted group sessions collaborate with young people to develop their key life skills while exploring their identity, building their confidence, and aspirations. Young people engaged with SpACE, pictured to the right. These successful workshops will continue to be jointly funded in 2024/25.

## Safeguarding Officers Quotes:

- *“Your spACE programme has been incredible for our students.”*
- *“The boys express not wanting these sessions to end and how useful and beneficial they find them.”*

## Prevention Work

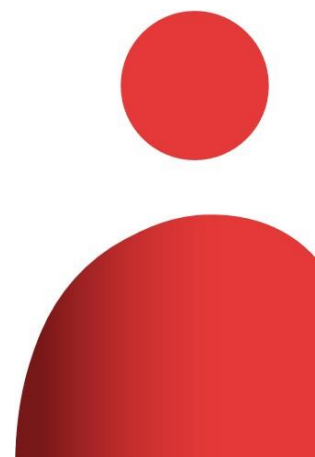
Bristol partnership funded Growing Futures and SOLVE to deliver workshops in several schools across the city. These workshops explore the reality of knife crime, serious youth violence and how this can impact on their future.

## Staff Feedback:

- *“I thought that it was a very good and well delivered by the facilitators. Very impactful as it was from people who have had real life experience.”*
- *“Overall, really enjoyed it and would love to have them back!”*
- *“Students really resonated with the real-life stories, were talking about the workshop afterwards and all talked positively.”*

## Student Feedback:

- *“It was amazing.”*





## Partnership Achievements

We would like to thank all the partners and service providers who have worked alongside the ASVRP across 2023-24. This collaborative approach to tackling serious youth violence is crucial to reducing and preventing young people's involvement both now and in the future. Furthermore, by working together, we can keep expanding our expertise and customising our approach to address the root causes.

This year, for the first time, we invited some of our partners to contribute to our ASVRP Annual Report. Thank you to The Avon and Somerset Police Early Intervention Team and Hotspot Policing, South West Probation Services, and Somerset Integrated Care Board for contributing their overview, achievements, and plans for the coming financial year.





## Avon and Somerset Police Early Intervention Team

**Overview:** The Early Intervention Team (EIT) are the Avon and Somerset Police teams, who work closely with ASVRP to reduce serious youth violence. The role of an EIT engagement officer varies from attending partnership meetings, completing police prevention interviews, visiting a young person after an incident (such as an arrest or stop and search), to disrupting identified adult exploiter(s). They also work in partnership with their local schools to deliver educational inputs on topics such as knife crime, drugs, and personal safety.

The partnership uses both police and partner data to identify children and young people at risk of serious youth violence. They also accept referrals for those who have been identified as being at risk of or engaged in serious youth violence (including those being criminally exploited and/or at a higher end of Anti-Social Behaviour).

This collective data is brought to multi-agency meetings for discussion and agreement of the most suitable intervention or approach for each individual young person. The data also supports the identification of hotspot locations or premises of concern. Enabling the partnership to explore and implement a problem-solving plan and/or use contextual safeguarding approaches to reduce the harm.

### EIT work in 2023-2024.

- The EIT provided consistent support across the ASVRP hub and spoke model, whilst also supporting the specific needs of each diverse community area.
- The EIT sergeant/s represented the police at their local youth panel, which works with a child-centred and trauma-informed approach.
- The EIT Schools' Officers worked collaboratively with Bristol-based
- Academics and the Youth Endowment Fund to build an understanding as to whether police officers delivering educational packages in a classroom setting helps to reduce children being involved in criminality, exploitation, and serious youth violence. This classroom work aims to be completed by the end of the summer term (2024).
- Operation Hardy is an Avon and Somerset Police-led operation, currently focused within Bristol and supported by partner agencies. The operation aims to reduce serious youth violence through building strong working relationships with children, their families, and the immediate communities that have been affected by serious youth violence. The operation implements good practices learnt over the last few years and works to ensure the young person's needs are met.



## ASVRP Child Critical Incident Toolkit

The partnership established a need for a Child Critical Incident Toolkit for professionals to be guided by when a child is murdered or critically harmed within the community of Avon and Somerset because of extra familial harm. Extrafamilial harm is defined as risks to the welfare of children that arise within the community or peer group, including sexual and criminal exploitation.

This multi-agency response with all key safeguarding partners will ensure a child centred and trauma-informed approach. The toolkit is being created by a collaborative partnership between:

- All five local authorities,
- ASVRP,
- Avon and Somerset Police,
- Children's Social Care,
- Education representatives,
- Youth Justice Services.

The toolkit aims to provide a structure to aid the production of a joint assessment of risk, facilitate information sharing and communication at a strategic level. The lead professionals using this toolkit are likely to be the police and local authorities.

### EIT Reached

336

#### Young people identified at:

- Data/intelligence sharing,
- Niche reports,
- Referrals.

562

#### Young people discussed at:

- Multi agency meetings.

## 2023-2024 EIT Partnership Achievements

The EIT supported the partnership through:

- Assisting with safeguarding,
- Direct engagement with children and/or young people,
- Information sharing,
- Supported referrals to other interventions.

## Plans for 2024-2025

Next year, the EIT will be continuing to deliver the same level of partnership support as 2023/24. This will include sharing relevant data and information to identify hotspot areas and young people at risk or involved in serious violence and engaging with young people. The EIT will continue to signpost appropriate interventions and work with schools to deliver key messaging on identified topics.



## Teachable Moments Engagement Car

The teachable moments engagement car (TMEC) is an initiative intended to reduce violent incidents across B&NES using an unmarked car that is crewed by a plain-clothes police officer and a youth worker. TMEC attends the scene of a violent incident after the initial police response ends to identify and engage with those near the incident and the wider community. Offering the opportunity for individuals to reflect on the event, give accurate information, and identify young people who might be at risk of becoming involved in offending or be a victim of crime.

TMEC is based on the reachable and/or teachable theory, which recognises there is a period after a serious violent incident has occurred when an individual (young person) is more open and willing to make changes in their life. This work intends to mitigate any risk identified and provide the individual with a positive alternative pathway towards healthier outcomes. Where appropriate, the youth worker will signpost and/or refer them to a relevant service or activity in their community.

The TMEC aims to impact the three key Home Office measurements on reducing serious violence, especially among victims aged under twenty-five. The three key aims are:

1. Reduction in hospital admissions for assault with a knife or sharp object,
2. Reduction in knife-enabled serious violence,
3. Reduction in all non-domestic homicides.

Evidence suggests that the advantages of this approach are:

- **Early identification:** it allows identification of those at risk of committing or becoming further embedded in crime and the criminal justice system.
- **Early identification:** Those at risk of or becoming further embedded in crime and the criminal justice system are identified early.
- **Multi-agency partnership:** it facilitates the collaboration and sharing of information, services, and skills between different agencies.
- **Multi-agency partnership:** Partners can share information, services, and skills between one another.
- **Referral pathways:** TMEC offers a range of the most appropriate support.
- **Relationship building:** When a referral is made, there is an opportunity for long-term support for young people, which enables trust to be built.
- **Timing:** TMEC provides a timely opportunity to engage with individuals.
- **Voluntary involvement:** Young people have the option to engage.

**Trauma Flag Pilot:** In July 2023, the EIT identified that there were children who the police may have encountered, who may have already suffered trauma or multiple traumas, and their trauma symptoms could have resulted in calls to the police and/or been mistaken for criminality. EIT introduced a pilot trauma flag scheme for the police crime recording system - raising awareness of trauma for the officers attending incidents involving the identified children and providing them with information on how best to engage and regulate them if needed.

This pilot was well received by partner agencies, police officers, and staff and resulted in better quality missing investigations, police prevention interviews, and additional referrals being made to support services.





## Avon and Somerset Police Serious Violence Hotspots Funding

**Overview:** Police concentrate their efforts on preventing crime in specific geographic regions where crime is concentrated under the tactic known as "hot spot policing." It entails giving these high-crime areas more focus and funding.

**Hot spot areas:** Crime figures and harm scores have been analysed for each hotspot between the period of 01/10/2023 to 31/12/2023. Crime and harm data was compared to the average amount of crimes/harm for each hotspot for the same period over the previous 5 years. Out of 34 hotspots reviewed, 16 have seen a decrease in crime, 15 have seen an increase and 3 have seen no change.

High compliance is important for testing the success of this Avon and Somerset hotspot policing operation. The overall compliance for the reviewed period was 90%, which is a great result. Of note, it is likely that the hotspots with low compliance rates will not see the positive impact of patrols unless compliance increases.

Whilst conducting patrols, an impressive distance of almost 694 miles has been covered, and 347 hours (about 2 weeks) have been spent in the hotspots. In addition to impacting crime, police presence in these areas.

**Positive Outcomes:** Since foot-patrols have started, Body Worn Video Footage has been captured and reviewed. Footage has shown that Hotspot patrols are having a positive impact on the community. Whilst out on patrols, officers have conducted:

- 5 Arrests of suspects ranging from assaults, drink driving offences and theft from shops. And 3 Stop and Searches.

### Community Feedback:

- *"Really nice to see you on the streets my friend, it's really good seeing you coming up and down. It's much appreciated."*
- *"I just want to say thank you for what you do."*
- *"You won't see Police in Plymouth; I am here on holiday, and I have seen four sets of officers in two days. I feel safe!"*
- *"Great to see you guys, can I get a selfie it's my birthday".*

### Interesting Facts:

- Officers conducted 1,388 patrols and spent nearly 347 hours in the hotspots. This is equivalent to watching 5-time Golden Globe Award Winner Oppenheimer approximately 117 times!
- While doing the patrols, officers have covered approximately 694 miles. In this distance, officers could have climbed to the top of Mount Fuji and back down again
- 144 times.







## Bleed Kit Partnership

**Overview:** Avon and Somerset Police, HeartSafe UK, and NHS England South West have joined forces to provide emergency bleed kits in public spaces across local communities. These kits are easily accessible to help anyone respond quickly in life-threatening situations involving severe bleeding. With 24/7 availability, these kits empower the public to act in the crucial first moments after an injury, potentially saving lives before emergency responders arrive.

**Bleed Kit Achievements:** To date, **the partnership has funded over 500 bleed kits** either attached to existing HeartSafe defibrillator cabinets or wall mounted in prominent locations across the Avon and Somerset region. The OPCC has funded an additional 125 bleed kits for 2024/25. These kits enable the public with immediate access to lifesaving equipment should a person suffer a catastrophic bleed.

**About the kits:** These kits are designed to provide immediate, lifesaving intervention for individuals experiencing severe bleeding due to traumatic injuries. Strategically placed in highly visible red dispensers, these trauma kits will be accessible free of charge across a range of public spaces and within key business premises such as entertainment venues, pubs, restaurants, shops, and clubs, ensuring that critical first aid is available even before medical professionals arrive on the scene. The partnership devised a community Bleed Kit that can be used by any member of the public with little or no training under 999 supervisions.



**Chief Inspector Mike Vass, Avon and Somerset Police's Force Lead for Knife Crime.**

The kit has simple colour-coded steps so that the instructions are clear and easy to use when someone is in a critical situation. This collaborative endeavor, initiated by Avon and Somerset Police in response to violent crime, goes beyond just the distribution of bleed kits. It includes an educational component where police may offer training at venues equipped with these kits, thereby raising awareness and cultivating the skills necessary for effective emergency interventions. This comprehensive approach aims to empower individuals across the community to act swiftly and effectively in life-threatening situations, whether they arise from violent incidents, traffic collisions, or other forms of severe injury, making a significant contribution to public safety and health.

**Bleed Kit locations:** The bleed kit website ([www.bleedkit.co.uk](http://www.bleedkit.co.uk)) includes a dedicated location page for each kit, which shows a detailed map and an image of the kit. This allows real community engagement and drives ownership and care for local bleed kits.

**Delivering Bleed Kits To Communities  
Across Avon and Somerset**  
Supported By...



and many more partners in our community & the UK...





## Probation Services Partnership

**Overview:** The Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises adult offenders over 18, released into the community, while protecting the public. There are three business Probation Delivery Units (PDU) that cover the Avon and Somerset geographical area: Bristol and South Gloucestershire PDU, Bath and North Somerset PDU, and Somerset PDU.

In sentence management our focus is on strengthening the probation practitioner's relationship with people on probation, using the right key skills, activities, and behaviours to achieve the most effective outcomes and enable offenders to make positive changes to their lives. This includes management and delivery of sentence plans, assessment, and management of risk.

Along with the Police and Prison Service, Probation is one of the MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) responsible authorities, tasked with assessing and managing the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders. These arrangements were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) 2003 as a framework of statutory arrangements aimed at managing the risks posed by qualifying offenders.

For unpaid work, accredited programs, and structured interventions, we aim to make placements and programs available locally with a thorough assessment and induction process, regular reviews of active cases, and ongoing professional development for staff delivering interventions.

Other interventions that meet rehabilitative and resettlement needs are delivered by Commissioned Rehabilitative Service providers, with cases managed according to the risk, need, and sentence type. These support services help reduce reoffending and include Employment, Training and Education, Accommodation and Personal Well-being, and Women's Services.

For resettlement, we have an enhanced pre-release system. A community-responsible officer leads all the pre-release activities, undertaking a comprehensive assessment and developing a sentence plan aligned to need, risk, and victim issues.

Our priority is to protect the public through the effective rehabilitation of offenders by reducing the causes that contribute to offending and enabling offenders to turn their lives around.



## Our Work and Key Achievements in 2023-2024

The Bristol and South Gloucestershire probation 18-25 team has worked with the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service (YJS) to develop a clear 'transitions' protocol and transition plan document to support young people as they move to adult services and ensure clear and thorough risk management planning. The under-25s strategic work has been undertaken by Avon and Somerset MAPPA:

- MAPPA Single Point of Contact (SPOC): An agreement was reached to put in place a mechanism whereby any cases of individuals brought into MAPPA who are not under the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is allocated a 'MAPPA SPOC' to help create a culture of awareness.
- Bristol and South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Services (YJS) met following a significant number of knife crime incidents in Bristol. It was recognised that there had been low referral numbers regarding this cohort, so work was done to improve understanding amongst YJS of when referral into MAPPA would be appropriate.

## Plans for 2024-2025

- Plans to extend the use of the YJS to adult probation transition plan documents across the police force area are subject to consultation with partners.
- Ongoing work by Avon and Somerset MAPPA Unit with YJS staff regarding MAPPA awareness and to support with referral and management processes.

**Case Study:** *"We have been supervising a young male (under 25) serving a custodial sentence for a serious violent offence involving the use of weapons, assessed as posing a high risk of serious harm to the public. The male was released to an approved premises outside of the area to manage their transition back into the community and the ongoing risks posed to where the incident occurred, given a history of peer conflict. He later returned to reside after successfully completing his time at the approved placement without any issues. He had been managed under MAPPA arrangements to ensure a coordinated approach to risk management; however, this oversight was removed in light of progress. Later, concerns were raised regarding this male's safety in the area, and we linked in with the previously allocated Police MAPPA point of contact to quickly obtain detailed information about this so we could respond accordingly. This led to the sharing of information specifically with this person, which provided Probation with clear and detailed information around the potential risks, both to and from the individual. To manage the significant risks posed should the male remain in the area, Probation made the decision to direct the male back to an approved premises outside of the area with immediate effect.*

*The case was re-referred for management under MAPPA arrangements, and police colleagues were invited to an emergency meeting to review the risk management plan and set actions for all involved. Probation and police collaborated to implement a robust plan to manage the individual's eventual return, which included several safeguarding and risk management measures being put into place. This facilitated a safe return for this young person, back from the approved premises. The detailed information sharing between police and probation and open dialogue around intelligence regarding tensions within the area enabled us to safely manage a very serious situation where a significant risk of serious youth violence was present."*





## NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board

**Overview:** The NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB) is a specified authority and has a statutory duty in relation to serious violence. The Chief Nursing Officer is a member of the ASVRP Board, and the Designated Nurses for Safeguarding adults and children are members of the subgroups.

### Our Work in 2023-2024

- The ICB contributed to the development of an SV dataset, which was incorporated into the Avon and Somerset Serious Violence SNA published in January 2024.
- The ICB is leading ongoing work in relation to improving the quality of serious violence data provided by multiple health settings.
- Continue to highlight the importance of considering how future partnership funding and resources can support the collection and analysis of health data.

### 2023-24 Achievements

The Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) undertook a non-statutory thematic review of the experiences of six young people who had been involved in serious youth violence incidents, leading to the development of good practice and areas for improvement. Findings from this and a multi-agency audit into serious youth violence also undertaken by the SSCP have informed the work of the Somerset Trauma Informed steering group, which has coordinated training and learning opportunities and supported the Somerset multi-agency system to change to Trauma Aware.

### Plans for 2024-25

- The partnership (NHS, ICB, and VRP) will explore the impact of the 'Admit Hospital Navigator' (which receives part funding through the Somerset VRP) and how it could be developed moving forward.
- Recognising the importance of high-quality data to tackling serious violence, source analyst support from within Somerset ICB for the DAMPEG.
- The ICB will also be working with safeguarding leads and Emergency Department staff to improve the quality of serious violence data collated at points of contact in acute settings.
- Actively contribute to and support the work of the Somerset Trauma Informed steering group in developing a Trauma Informed approach in Somerset, reducing the negative impact of trauma experiences on individuals of all ages and supporting their mental and physical health outcomes, and with the key principles of Trauma Informed practice built into services and systems.

The ICB strategic safeguarding team is working with workforce colleagues to develop an overarching Safety in the Workplace Toolkit, which will incorporate the following areas of focus for the NHS:

- Managing Allegations against Staff.
- Preventing violence and aggression (workplace)  
[Violence prevention and reduction standard.](#)
- Sexual safety in the workplace  
[Sexual Safety in Healthcare – Organisational Charter.](#)
- Supporting colleagues who are experiencing domestic abuse.





## Summary of Finances

The OPCC receives two specific grants from the Home Office: the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Grant and the Serious Violence Duty Grant. These funding streams support our ASVRP Hub and Spoke model, with most of these funds devolved by the OPCC to the five local VRP spokes. This local devolvement is allocated using an agreed funding formula and is distributed through a formal grant agreement between the local authority and the OPCC.

The local VRP spoke leads hold the responsibility of setting out their delivery plans and reporting their progress and expenditure. The final delivery plans are submitted to the Home Office at the start of each financial year for approval, and the OPCC (coordinated by the VRP Hub) provides quarterly reports to the Home Office on the grant spending.

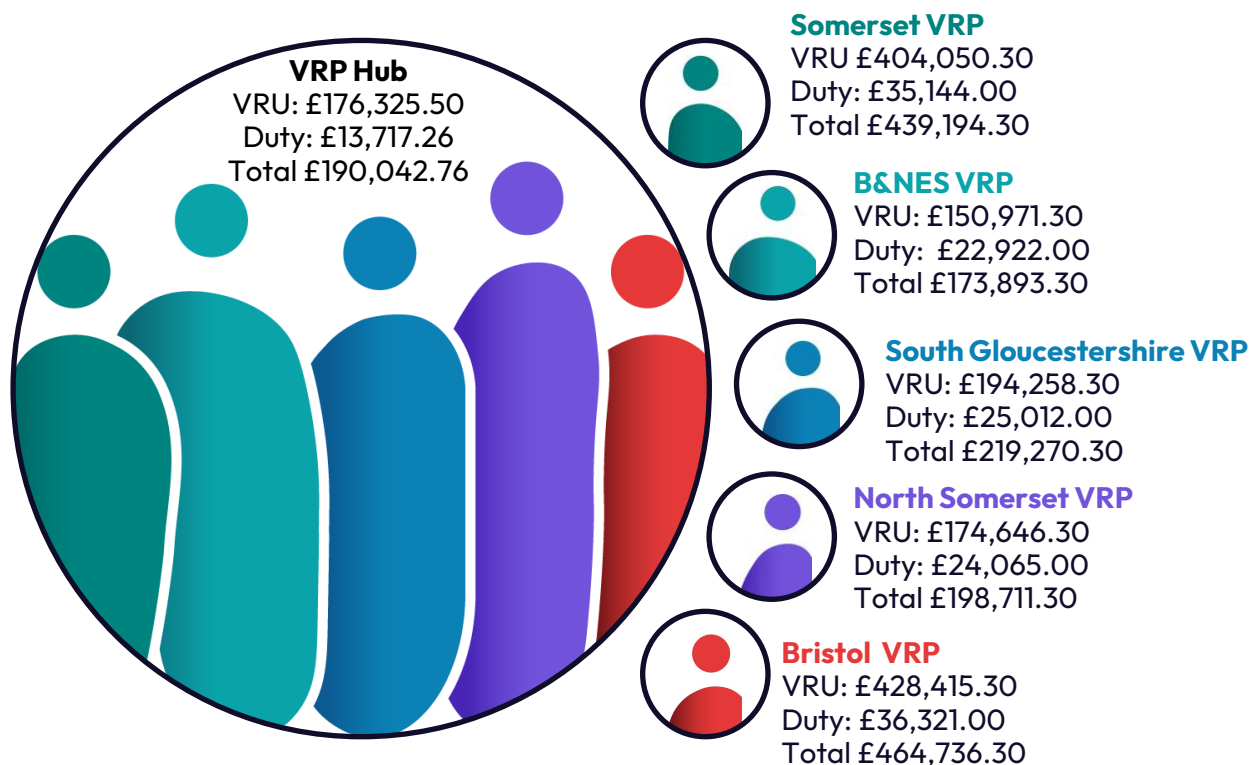
Across 2023/24, the VRU Grant and SV Duty Funding enabled the VRPs to collectively deliver 56 different interventions, provide support to 18,698 young people, 2,031 parents/carers (over 25's), and reach 1,578 professionals who work with young people.





## Breakdown of spending

In 2023/24, the OPCC received £1,528,667.00 from the VRU Grant and £157,181.26 from the SV Duty Funding, giving a total of £1,685,848.26. Below is a breakdown of how these funds were allocated:



A range of additional match funding is provided across the partnership to support its work. This includes staff time allocation to engage in partnership activities and directing additional local funding towards interventions.

## 2023-24 Underspend

In 2023/24, there was a slight underspend on both the grants:

- The VRU Grant underspend within the VRP Hub was £1,530.04. This was due to a delay in recruiting for the new posts.
- The SV Duty Grant underspend was £5,702.48 from Bristol VRP. This was due to changes within their delivery plans necessitated by incidents within the local area in Quarter 4.

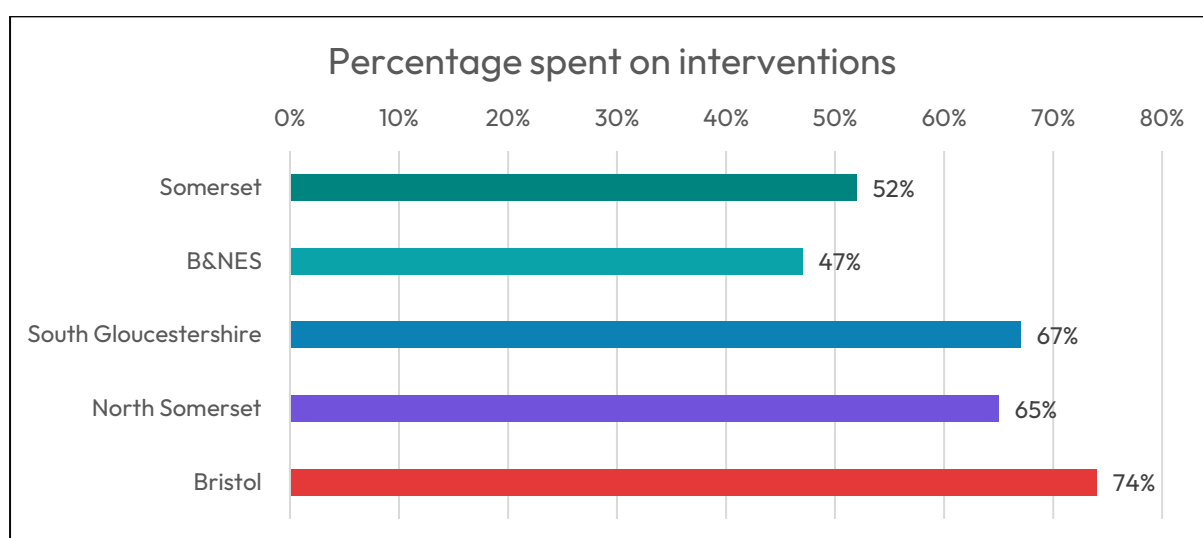
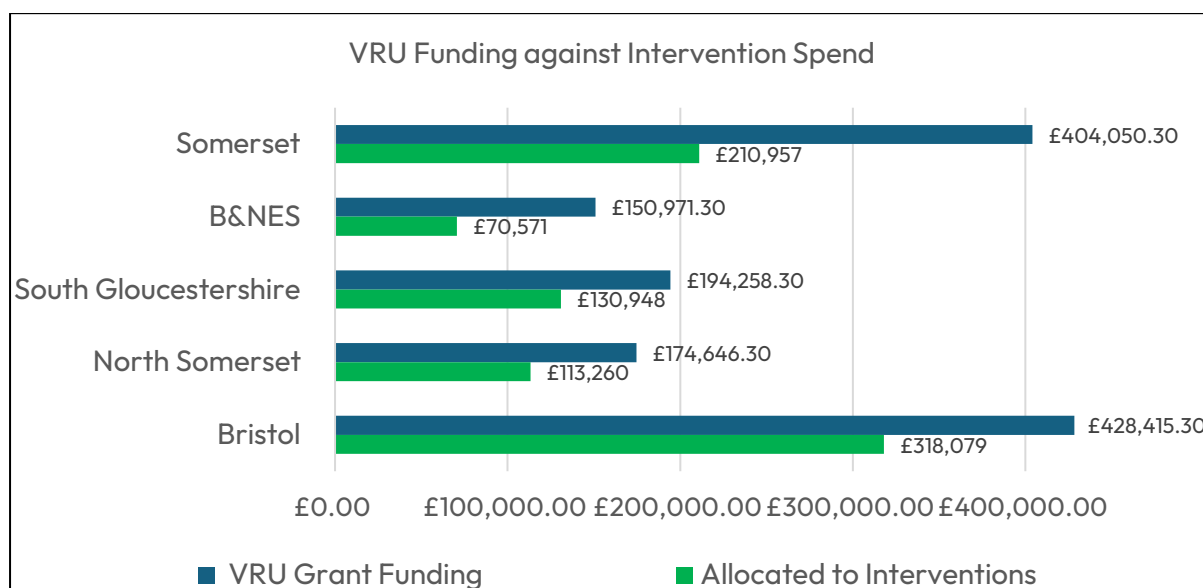
In addition to VRU Grant funding, local match funding is also provided and is a requirement of the Home Office grant. This match funding takes various forms, including intervention funding and staffing or communications activities. It also includes match funding provided by other partners, including Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Early Intervention Team. The total amount of match funding in 2023/24 reflected in the Home Office returns is £2,127,311, which is more than the Home Office grant requirement of 20%.





## VRU Grant Spend 2023/24 – Spending on Interventions.

In all local VRP areas, the funding allocated via the VRU grant is split between spending on interventions and staffing/other costs. Staffing costs and profiles funded through the VRU grant look different across the five local VRPs, although all have a VRP Coordinator and other support staff in place. Staff deliver multi-agency operational processes for identifying and managing young people at risk of serious violence, as well as the design and delivery of interventions and partnership functions. In some areas, staffing is funded through a combination of VRU grant and match funding. Some local VRPs also provide match funding spend on interventions, which is not reflected in the percentages shown below.





## Looking ahead

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the production of this annual report, which has showcased the outstanding collaborative accomplishments of ASVRP and discussed interventions that addressed and raised awareness of serious youth violence, as well as the reactive support that was, and in many cases still is, being given to those impacted by recent tragic events.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we will see the continuation of many of the interventions included in this report as well as some new projects, such as the exciting new project in Bristol working with young people at HMP Bristol.

At the partnership level, much of our focus in the past year has been on embedding our new structure and ways of working across Avon and Somerset. Our new name and brand have provided our adapted Hub and Spoke model with a clear new agreed serious violence definition, an updated theory of change, and a new strategy that sets out the focus of our work to prevent serious violence as we move forward.

There are some fantastic examples of the positive impact the work being carried out in our local VRPs and by our partners is having on the lives of young people, their families, and local communities. Our focus for the coming year will include doing more to capture and understand these successes. To identify what is (and is not) working, to celebrate successes and to ensure that our understanding of the scope and scale of the problem of serious violence in each of our local areas and across the whole of Avon and Somerset is strong.

This year sees both a new Police and Crime Commissioner, Clare Moody, who will be taking over the chairing of the ASVRP Board, as well as a new government. I look forward to working with them and with all our partners across the Avon and Somerset area.

Natalie Lavis,  
ASVRP Director



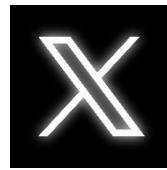
For more information, please head to our dedicated ASVRP website: [www.asvrp.co.uk](http://www.asvrp.co.uk)

To contact someone at the VRP Hub, please email: [VRPHub@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:VRPHub@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

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