



April 2025



HUB NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear colleagues, partners, and community members,

As we reflect on another year of challenges, progress, and collaboration, we are proud to share updates on our ongoing work to prevent violence and create safer communities for young people across Avon and Somerset.

The Violence Reduction Partnership has continued to make significant strides in addressing the root causes of violence, working closely with communities, local authorities, and partners to reduce youth violence and support those at risk. Our **unique hub and spoke model**—with the hub based within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and dedicated VRP spokes in each local authority—allows us to develop a deep understanding of local challenges and commission tailored interventions.

We are also delighted to announce that we have secured **Home Office funding for 2025-26**, enabling us to further strengthen our efforts in tackling serious violence and delivering meaningful interventions for young people, families, and communities.

This year has tested our resilience, with funding and resource pressures posing significant challenges. However, through unwavering dedication and collaboration, we have remained steadfast in our mission. The recent election has brought renewed government focus on tackling knife crime, and while we await further guidance on new initiatives, we stand ready to implement effective strategies as soon as directives are provided.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners for their commitment, hard work, and perseverance. Your efforts have been instrumental in driving progress, and we look forward to another year of collaboration, innovation, and positive change.

Thank you for your continued support.

Natalie Lavis,
ASVRP Director



The Avon and Somerset Bleed Kit Partnership launched a brand-new knife crime education scenario at the Bristol Lifeskills centre last month.

As Year 6 pupils get ready for their significant transition into secondary school, this unique interactive scenario will teach them about the risks associated with carrying a knife. During the scenario, pupils are encouraged to consider their own reactions to various scenarios and determine the safest course of action in each one. Additionally, they learn where and how to get help if they have concerns about knife crime or an individual's behaviour.

Last year, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Metals and Lifeskills came together a creative partnership to fund this unique intervention. More than 1,000 knives and bladed weapons are surrendered into the Avon and Somerset Police Surrender Bins each month. In 2024, the collection was safely transported to Avon Metals in Gloucester, where they were melted down to form alloy ingots. Avon Metals then sold these alloy ingots commercially and committed £10,000 in funding (obtained through the surrender bin initiative) to enable the scenario to be delivered for a year.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime Prevention Fund, in collaboration with the Quartet Community Foundation, which is dedicated to helping communities become safer, awarded a £5,000 grant, which helped bring this knife crime scenario to life.

This collaboration has proactively repurposed and utilised surrendered weapons to benefit and empower young people in making informed decisions about knife crime.

“

Our partnership with Avon Metals and Lifeskills demonstrates how we can repurpose something harmful and turn it into a potentially life-saving resource. If this intervention protects just one child from the dangers of knife crime, it has made our efforts worthwhile.

”

Chief Inspector Vass





STRENGTHENING AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT

This year, our ASVRP Hub team will be actively visiting and engaging with various interventions across Avon and Somerset. By connecting in person, we aim to enhance awareness of the ongoing initiatives within the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) and help spread their impact more widely.

BLUNT TRUTH: A LIFE-SAVING INITIATIVE



Blunt Truth is a powerful collaboration, curated by Avon and Somerset Police in Bristol. In North Somerset, the VRP, Police, Army Reserves and Avon Fire are delivering vital workshops to pupils in school year 9.

The interactive session includes an engaging Bristol made film, open discussions, and hands-on first-aid training.

The initiative educates young people on the dangers of knife crime, the importance of reporting concerns, and how to provide emergency first aid if needed.

By fostering awareness and responsibility, Blunt Truth empowers students to make the right choices and contribute to a safer community.



Blunt Truth is also delivered across South Gloucestershire and Bristol through Avon and Somerset Police and supported by the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH BYSTANDER TRAINING

Somerset VRP has partnered with Collaborate Digital to deliver a series of engaging workshops across secondary schools in the region. These workshops, focus on critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork, and are designed to empower students with the skills they need to tackle important social issues.

A key highlight is the Bystander Training initiative, which is educating students on how to safely challenge harmful behaviours like bullying and incivility. By equipping young people with the knowledge to intervene effectively, the program fosters safer and more inclusive environments in schools and communities.

In an age where the role of an active bystander is more crucial than ever, this training empowers students to make a positive impact, whether online or in their local communities.

Through innovative digital media, these workshops offer an interactive and immersive learning experience that will leave a lasting impression. [Click here to find out more on Collaborate Digital](#)



SOMERSET VRP

HOSPITAL NAVIGATOR PROJECT SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership and Somerset Drug and Alcohol Partnership jointly funded an innovative hospital navigator project called Admit. This initiative is designed to provide timely intervention and support to young individuals at risk due to violence, exploitation, or substance misuse.

Through Admit, Turning Point Services places experienced project staff in the Accident & Emergency (A&E) departments at both Musgrove Park Hospital and Yeovil General Hospital during peak hours.



These dedicated professionals bring a wealth of experience in working with young people and will be on hand to offer immediate guidance and support when it is needed most. So far, from April to December 2024, Admit has engaged with **48 young people, 40 individuals over 25, and 13 professionals.**

This collaborative effort between key agencies highlights Somerset's commitment to tackling youth vulnerability proactively. By embedding support services within hospital settings, the project aims to create a safer future for young people in our communities.

SPORTS MENTORING

Somerset VRP funded a sports mentoring initiative in partnership with Jump Start, which is more than just a sports programme — providing a safe and supportive space where young people feel valued, heard, and empowered. Their mentors work closely with identified young people, integrating them into community activities and helping them better understand the impact of their behaviours. By offering consistency and positive role models, they create an environment where young people can develop essential life skills and self-awareness.



From April to December 2024, Jump Start worked with 26 young people and 9 professionals, providing crucial support and mentorship. These numbers reflect their commitment to making a real difference in the lives of young people who need it most.



B&NES EXPLOITATION & YOUTH VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

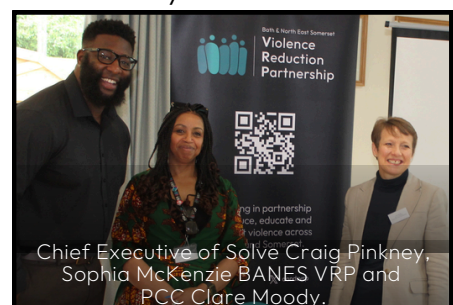
B&NES VRP hosted their fourth annual professionals conference last month. This years theme was 'Exploitation and Youth Violence'. PCC, Clare Moody, opened the day.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Craig Pinkney, CEO of Solve, explored the national landscape of exploitation, delving into the multifaceted ways it impacts children and young people. He challenged attendees to broaden their understanding beyond drug-related exploitation, examining the influence of gangs and extremist groups.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- Jordan Turner and Danyelle King from [Change Lives No To Knives](#).
- Talulah Pollenne & Claire Farnham from [Unique Voice](#) discussed their 'Belonging' workshop.
- Clare Luxton, Charlotte Pearson, Natasha Swaby & Karen Lee showed a VRP and ACE County Lines film, followed by a timeline activity and assembly presentation.
- Paul Scott, Associate Director for [B&NES Public Health](#) covered 'Public Health Approaches and Determinants'.
- Liz Bryan, Jess Hull & Megan Brewer from [Project 28](#) discussed substance misuse locally (outreach) and links to exploitation.
- Paula Shore, Assistant Director for Education at [BWAT](#) covered 'What is Life Like Today in our Primary Schools?'.
- Betsy de Thierry, MA, Consultant Psychotherapist, Trainer, Author, CEO of [Trauma Recovery Global](#) covered 'The Cycle of the Impact of Trauma'.
- Sophia McKenzie, [B&NES VRP](#) Co-ordinator reflected on day.



Chief Executive of Solve Craig Pinkney, Sophia McKenzie B&NES VRP and PCC Clare Moody.

The conference provided valuable insight from the speakers and encouraged attendees to examine how they could collaborate to safeguard young people from violence and exploitation.

“

I'm aware prevention work doesn't always make the headlines, but I firmly believe early intervention, trauma-informed approaches, and community support are essential for long-term change. That is why I've made reducing serious youth violence part of one of the five main priorities in my [Police and Crime Plan](#).

”

PCC, Clare Moody.

TACKLING KNIFE CRIME: PARENTAL AWARENESS EVENTS

Late last year, the B&NES VRP hosted five 'Parental Knife Crime Awareness Events' to address growing concerns about knife crime. The sessions aimed to equip parents with knowledge and strategies to protect young people. Expert speakers from law enforcement, youth services, and community organizations shared insights on risks, warning signs, and ways to talk to children about safety. Parents received practical advice on engaging with their children and finding additional support. The initiative was well-received, empowering parents and fostering a community dialogue to prevent youth involvement in knife crime.

Stay tuned for future events and initiatives focused on reducing violence.





EMPIRE FIGHTING CHANCE

South Gloucestershire VRP funded the sports organisation Empire Fighting Chance to teach young people how to participate in non-contact boxing, which developed their communication and time keeping skills. Young people are identified by the school as being those that will benefit from the input. Those who have attended the pilot sessions are reported to be making better choices and are at a reduced risk of exploitation or getting involved in violence. [Click here to find out more.](#)

WHEELS PROJECT

The South Gloucestershire VRP funded the Wheels Project for high-risk young people who were not in full-time education. The project included go-kart Building, go-kart driving and vehicle maintenance courses.

A young person was identified as being at risk of serious violence and CCE, the VRP were able to get them placed onto the Wheels Project. EIT Officers PC Anthony Treadwell and PC Paul Westerlink transported and supported this young person for the duration of the project.

Below is an extract from the child's parent.

“I would like to say thank you so much for everything you and your team has done for my child. I think without you guys they wouldn't be the person they are today. To have them picked up from home by the same people all the time (I feel) is very important to them, as this consistency builds up a bond... Without the wheels project I really don't think my child would have turned their life around. Keep up the good work.”

Parent

DORIS: SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S NEW YOUTH BUS HITS THE ROAD



Meet DORIS – the Delivery Of Rural Inclusion and Support bus – which was officially launched to support young people across the South Gloucestershire region. This vibrant and uniquely designed bus was designed in collaboration with local young people and features striking hand-drawn and digitally created illustrations, making it both visually engaging and a true community project. DORIS will be a valuable resource for youth groups and outreach workers,

offering a safe and welcoming space for young people to access information, support, and social activities. With a built-in sound bar, TV, and Wi-Fi, DORIS provides an interactive environment where young people can relax, talk, and engage with support services.

CONGRATULATIONS



PC Anthony Treadwell (pictured) of the South Gloucestershire Early Intervention Team was a finalist at the 2025 Outstanding Policing Awards in March. His nomination praised his remarkable attitude and approach, especially for an officer with under five years' experience.

Congratulations, Ant!





NORTH SOMERSET VRP



Weston College student Ryan
Abrahams winning design.

The Knife Angel, a powerful 27-foot sculpture made from over 100,000 surrendered or seized knives, visited North Somerset in May 2024 as part of its nationwide tour to raise awareness of violent crime. Created from contributions by 43 UK police forces, it symbolizes the devastating impact of knife violence.

The sculpture also facilitated community engagement, with schools, youth groups, and organizations coming together through discussions and art projects to emphasize education and early intervention in tackling knife crime.

BEACON OF HOPE: A LASTING LEGACY OF THE KNIFE ANGEL



PCC Clare Moody with Alliance Homes CE
Louise Swain, and colleagues involved in the
Walk of Hope event

The community has continued its journey of reflection and unity with the unveiling of the Beacon of Hope sculpture. This inspiring installation serves as a powerful reminder of resilience, creativity, and collective action against violence.

The unveiling was a true celebration, with the community coming together for the 'Walk of Hope', led by the uplifting sounds of local brass band Jump Street. The event was further enriched by a stunning performance from jazz singer Marvin Mounéké and lively entertainment from the talented local circus troupe, Tiny Circus.

The sculpture's design was crafted by pupils from Voyage Learning Campus in collaboration with local artists. Inspired by the Knife Angel's message, this project was delivered by Alliance Homes and North Somerset Council as part of an ongoing initiative to engage young people and promote positive community values.

The Beacon of Hope now stands as a testament to the Knife Angel's legacy, reinforcing the community's commitment to unity, reflection, and a brighter future. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when people come together to inspire change.

“This Beacon will provide a lasting legacy and I want to thank everyone involved in this project and the powerful words that adorn it.”

PCC Clare Moody





The Bristol Violence Reduction Partnership have been visiting parenting groups across the city to formulate relationships and help parents understand what exploitation is, indicators of exploitations and how they can support their children to stay safe.

NEW COMMUNITY GROUP IN SOUTH BRISTOL

The Bristol VRP were invited to share information on supporting children amid growing concerns about youth violence to a new South Bristol group, which has been created to bring together mothers from diverse backgrounds, to focus on shared concerns rather than differences. The session covered topics such as knife crime, child criminal and sexual exploitation, and the importance of open conversations within families and the community.

The group meets every Friday from 10.00am - 12noon at the Hub Oasis Cannaught, BS41NH.

“Thank you so much for allowing us to see you today. This is a very important step for the future of our community, and you have told us things that are able to help us in the future with safeguarding our children and how to report anything that may be wrong. Thank you for your support”

Parent within the group

DRINK/DRUG GOGGLE EXPERIENCE

The Quakers Parents Group, funded by Bristol Violence Reduction Partnership, recently held two meetings with the partnership to raise awareness on key issues affecting young people. The first session introduced Safer Options and shared important information on topics like county lines, child sexual exploitation, and knife crime. The Bristol Drugs Project, in collaboration with the Bristol VRP, joined the group of 20 parents to discuss the dangers of drugs.

The session covered common drugs (Class A, B, and C), current drug trends in Bristol, and signs of child exploitation. The group also discussed concerns about parents seeking support without criminalising their children, and the long-term impact this could have on job opportunities. Parents explored how to strengthen their support networks and feel more comfortable reaching out for help when needed.

CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE WINTER SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

This quarter marked the completion of our "Staying Safe in Winter" awareness campaign with a visit to the final City of Bristol College site. Despite being smaller in size, over 150 individuals



took part in meaningful conversations with professionals about key topics such as exploitation, drug awareness, knife crime, and methods for reporting incidents to the police.

Across all four college sites, more than 400 people engaged in these discussions, and they are now playing an active role in spreading the awareness.



EXPLOITATION AWARENESS TRAINING AT CABOT CIRCUS



Retail staff regularly interact with children and young people within their working role. It is important to be aware of potential safeguarding concerns.

A variety of Cabot Circus businesses attended a partnership Exploitation Awareness Training workshop last year (pictured), which equipped participants with the knowledge and tools to

respond appropriately in such situations. Plans are now underway to deliver a similar workshop to security businesses across the city later this year.

JOIN A PUBLIC FORUM WITH PCC CLARE MOODY

“I am here to represent you. To do this, I need to truly understand how you feel and where you would like our police to prioritise their time and resources. These forums will give me the opportunity to update you on my Police and Crime Plan and provide a platform for me to hear from you.”

PCC Clare Moody

Each forum will provide you with the opportunity to:

- Hear a progress update from PCC Clare Moody, on the Police & Crime Plan priorities.
- Meet and hear from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- Share your policing concerns and ideas on how to make your community safer.

Sign up to attend, via Eventbrite to share your thoughts and influence local policing.

Below are the locations and dates for each forum, which will all be from 6.00–8.00pm

- **Somerset East** (Yeovil), Westlands Entertainment Venue, Thursday 22nd May.
- **Somerset West** (Taunton), Taunton Rugby Football Club, Tuesday 22nd July.
- **South Gloucestershire**, Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, Tuesday 9th September.
- **North Somerset**, Weston Museum, Tuesday 25th November.
- **B&NES**, The Salvation Army (Bath), Tuesday 20th January 2026.
- **Bristol**, The Station- Creative Youth Network, Tuesday 24th March 2026.

FORUM



Please visit the [OPCC website](https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) for updates on these forums. You can contact the OPCC at OPCCMedia@avonandsomerset.police.uk with any questions or if you have any accessibility requirements, so they can ensure you can participate comfortably.

Thank you for reading our Violence Reduction Partnership Hub Newsletter!
We appreciate your support in helping to create safer communities.

To learn more about our work and initiatives, visit our website at asvrp.co.uk.
Stay connected and up to date by following us on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

Together, we can make a difference!

