



Quarter 4, 2025



## HUB NEWSLETTER

### Reflecting on a Year of Impact and Collaboration

# WELCOME

As we reflect on the past year, the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is proud to share the collective achievements that have made a tangible difference in our communities. Through unwavering collaboration and a shared commitment to a public health and trauma-informed approach, we've reached thousands, offering support, education, and hope.

#### Our Collective Impact:

- 13,825 young people engaged through tailored interventions, including detached youth work, educational awareness packages, and school-based programs.
- 778 individuals over the age of 25 received targeted support.
- 1,101 professionals benefitted from training and support to enhance their understanding and work with children and young people.

These efforts were **delivered through 39 diverse interventions**, ranging from street-level outreach, sports activities to one to one targeted support, all designed to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and the safety of our communities.

#### A Unified Approach:

Our success is rooted in the strength of our partnerships. By bringing together police, local authorities, health services, education providers, and community organizations, we've fostered a cohesive strategy that prioritizes early intervention and sustained support.

#### Looking Ahead:

While we've made significant strides, our mission continues. We remain dedicated to evolving our strategies, informed by data and community feedback, to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to lead a life free from violence.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Together, we are building safer, more resilient communities for all.

Warm regards,

**Natalie Lavis**

**Director, Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership.**

# 2024-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

## ASVRP OVERVIEW



39

Interventions  
delivered

13,825

Young people  
reached

778

Over 25s  
reached

1,101

Professionals  
reached

## SOMERSET VRP



5

Interventions  
delivered

616

Young people  
reached

46

Over 25s  
reached

42

Professionals  
reached

## B&NES VRP



5

Interventions  
delivered

2,828

Young people  
reached

120

Over 25s  
reached

157

Professionals  
reached

## SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP



13

Interventions  
delivered

3,372

Young people  
reached

90

Over 25s  
reached

470

Professionals  
reached

## NORTH SOMERSET VRP



8

Interventions  
delivered

4,463

Young people  
reached

90

Over 25s  
reached

81

Professionals  
reached

## BRISTOL VRP



9

Interventions  
delivered

2,546

Young people  
reached

522

Over 25s  
reached

351

Professionals  
reached



# MEET THE HUB TEAM

The ASVRP Hub Team plays a vital role in supporting the five spokes in developing and delivering serious violence prevention work across Avon and Somerset. Led by VRP Director Natalie Lavis, the team brings together a wealth of experience and expertise. Lisa Vango, Senior Partnership and Engagement Manager, leads on building strong, effective relationships across the partnership, while Amanda Ritchie, Evaluations and Impact Senior Lead, ensures our work is driven by robust evidence and meaningful outcomes. Emily Widdowson, VRP Communications Manager, supports clear and consistent messaging across the programme, and Elizabeth Boyd, VRP Support Officer, keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes. Together, The team is dedicated to reducing serious violence and strengthening communities.



Natalie Lavis



Lisa Vango



Emily Widdowson



Elizabeth Boyd

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## FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT

With our 2025-2026 funding grants now secured, we can now begin the 2025 delivery cycle across the VRPs, rolling out a wide range of interventions, which all require an evaluation.

The evaluation process starts with a Theory of Change (a comprehensive description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen) and Outcomes Framework (a tool that helps articulate the different levels of results expected from a particular intervention), enabling each intervention the ability to collect both quantitative and qualitative data.

In addition to all of the interventions being evaluated, this year we are planning to carry out four Impact Evaluations, which provides information about the observed changes or 'impacts' produced by the intervention. The four chosen interventions are:

1. In Bristol, in partnership with the University of Bristol:
  - 1:1 Community Mentoring.
  - A Schools-Based Weapons and Drugs Programme.
2. In North Somerset, Start to Finish Focussed Deterrence project.
3. In South Gloucestershire, CBT based programme led by DGF Psychology which will support young people and their families who have been identified as at risk of exploitation.



## QUARTER 4 ACHIEVEMENTS



### Interventions;

- Admit.
- Teachable Moments;
  - Violence.
  - Social Skills.
- Sports Mentoring.
- Violence Prevention Workshops.

## BELONGING PROGRAMME ENGAGES 450 PUPILS

Across the last financial quarter, the Belonging programme was delivered to four Yeovil primary schools. Thirteen engaging workshops were led by an experienced facilitators from Unique Voice, and supported approximately 450 Year 5 and 6 pupils. Sessions began with a creative assembly featuring a thought-provoking film on the impact of negative belonging, followed by interactive workshops exploring identity, resilience, and positive self-worth through drama and group activities.

Across the 3 primary schools Unique Voice received 319 pre-programme responses and 293 post-programme responses. Comparisons the responses suggest a broad increase in participants' sense of belonging across multiple areas after we worked with them. On average the pre-questionnaire children listed 1.8 places they belonged and in post this increased to 2.5 places they belonged.

Overall, we can see that the Belonging Programme has impacted on the participants positively. The power of using play and creativity enabled us to explore the topic of violence in an age-appropriate and effective way contributing to a memorable learning experience.

## INTERVENTIONS FOR 2025-2026

A&E Navigators	Social Skills School Age YP.	Social Skills Transitions	Sports Mentors	Community Hubs
A&E Navigators embedded in A&E to support individuals affected by violence or substance misuse.	Aids secondary school-aged children focusing on social skills for those at risk of school exclusion & violence (knife crime).	Providing short-term targeted social skills support for at-risk vulnerable young people aged between 18-24 years.	Sports mentors provide holistic mentoring and integration into community activities for young people at risk of ASB.	The hubs act as an engagement point with a focus on town centre safety. Supported by Youth Workers, the young people set the themes.



## INTERVENTIONS 2025-26 CONTINUED

### Knife Crime Prevention

→ Develop and promote a standard shared resource across partnerships that will be delivered by professionals.

### Professionals Conference

→ A training conference to support a full system response to issue of serious youth violence for multi agency partners.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

In 2024-2025, the Somerset VVRP, a subgroup of the Safer Somerset Partnership, continued its vital work tackling serious violence across the county. Through strong collaboration with local partners, the VRP supported the delivery of statutory duties, driving prevention, early intervention, and community safety initiatives to reduce the impact of serious violence in Somerset. [Click here for their annual report.](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### TRANSFORMING FUTURES: L'S JOURNEY WITH JUMP START MENTORING

Jump Start, a programme supported by the Somerset VRP funding and delivered by the Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP), offering vital one-to-one mentoring for young people facing challenges such as school exclusion, police involvement, and/or negative peer influences. L's story exemplifies the profound impact of early intervention and sustained support.

In October 2024, L was disengaged from school and on the police radar. He was introduced to Jump Start mentoring in November and initially resisted engagement. Over time he began to open up, showing increased confidence, a willingness to try new activities, and more positive body language. Despite a setback in December involving an assault incident, L remained committed to the programme. By January, he faced a police interview with maturity, leading to all charges being dropped. His school attendance improved dramatically to 95-100%, with minimal behavioural incidents, and he expressed feeling much happier in his school environment.

By February, L had established a steady routine, regularly attending school and maintaining close contact with his mentor. He actively communicated his feelings, avoided negative peer influences, and showed noticeable improvements in his mental health and overall well-being. March marked a breakthrough, with L demonstrating enthusiasm for activities like basketball and resilience in adapting to change. His ability to handle small inconveniences indicated an increased adaptability and emotional regulation.

L's transformation underscores the critical role of VRP-funded mentoring in early intervention and youth development. The support provided by Jump Start has helped L re-engage with education, diverting him from negative influences, and building his resilience. His story highlights the importance of continued investment in such programmes to ensure more young people receive the guidance they need to thrive.



## QUARTER 4 ACHIEVEMENTS



### Interventions;

- Detached Youth Work.
- Events.
- Lived Experience Mentoring.
- Parents Knife Crime Awareness Events & Professionals Training.

## RAISING AWARENESS AROUND KNIFE CRIME & YOUTH SAFETY

Over the last financial quarter, the B&NES VRP focused on raising awareness of knife crime and equipping adults with tools to help keep children safe. A series of staff training events were delivered, with a focus on the link between social media and youth violence.

As part of this work, 31 parents and carers attended Parental Knife Crime Awareness Sessions, gaining valuable insights into the risks young people face and how to support them. In addition, 90 professionals received training to strengthen local safeguarding responses and build a shared understanding of effective prevention approaches.

In addition to parental knife crime awareness sessions this quarter also delivered an assembly to 160 children by an individual with lived experience and delivered the professionals conference in March 2025. The assembly was extremely successful with the individual asked back later this year. Information regarding the professionals conference is included in the update for the SV Duty as the intervention was funded by a combination of the two grants. Reach has been split accordingly.

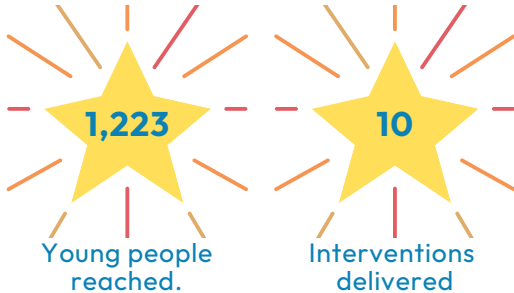
## INTERVENTIONS FOR 2025-2026

Detached Youth Work	Lived Experience Mentoring	Alternative Routes	Knife Awareness Events	Detached Youth Work - SV
Engage with local young people in hotspots, building trust & offering support around serious youth violence.	Local mentors with lived experience support and guide young people at risk of serious violence.	A public health-based of workshops and mentoring to prevent youth violence and support personal growth.	Parental awareness events, focusing on knife & bladed article crime, with a focus also on exploitation & grooming.	Connect with young people in high-risk areas, building relationships and providing support to prevent serious violence.



# SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP

## QUARTER 4 ACHIEVEMENTS



### Interventions;

- Mentoring.
- Education Inclusion Project.
- The Wheels Project.
- Street Doctors.
- Sports Programme.
- Youth Detached Work.
- Arts & Music Mentoring.
- Youth Therapy/Play.
- Unique Voice - Delivery into Schools.
- Education Awareness Package.

## TWO OF THEIR COMMISSIONED PROJECTS

### EMPIRE FIGHTING CHANCE



Empire Fighting Chance are delivering a powerful multi-week programme across four local schools,

using non-contact boxing and mentoring to support young people's wellbeing and personal development. This impactful programme has already featured within the community. The work aims to help students build confidence, improve resilience, and create positive pathways for the future.

### THE WHEELS PROJECT

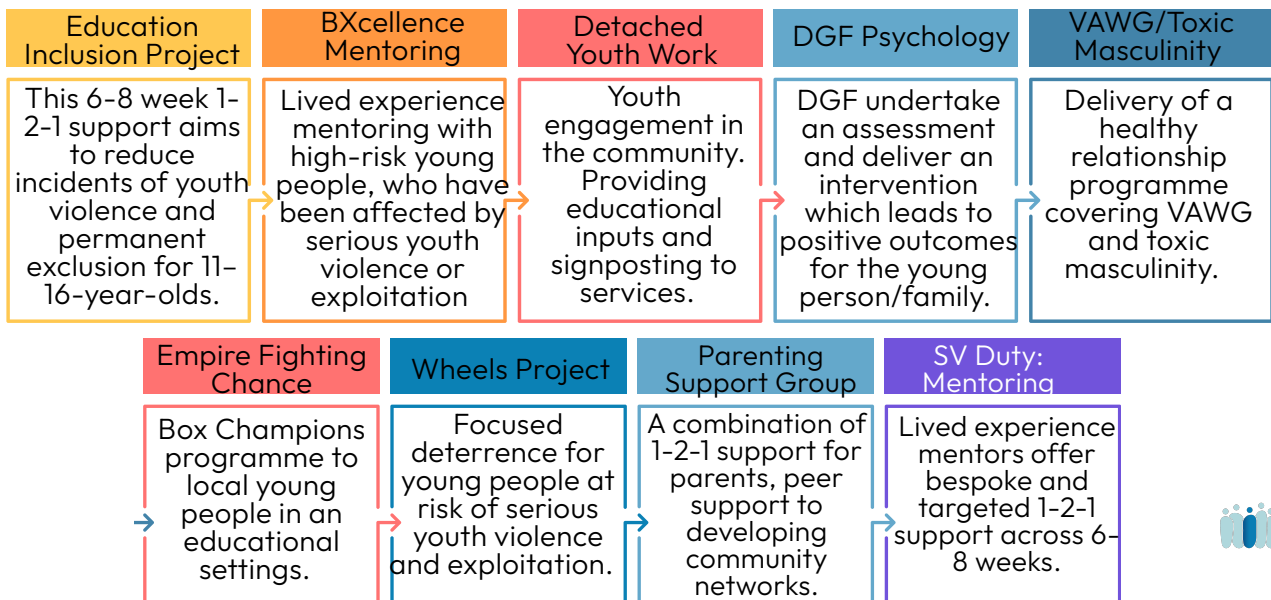


The Wheels Project supports young people

not in education, or referred for extra support, by offering hands-on training in a mechanical workshop. Funded by South Gloucestershire's VRP, the scheme helps participants build skills, confidence, and positive pathways for the future.

**Click on the image to watch an informative film.**

## INTERVENTIONS FOR 2025-2026



# NORTH SOMERSET VRP

## QUARTER 4 ACHIEVEMENTS



### Interventions;

- Blunt Truth.
- CBT and Support Projects.
- Sports Diversion.
- St Giles Trust.
- Start To Finish
- Targeted Detached Youth Outreach.
- The Youth Voice - Community Engagement.

## SPOTLIGHT

### SPORTS DIVERSION: GROWTH, CONNECTION, AND CONFIDENCE

We're thrilled to share the ongoing success of our weekly youth sessions, where we consistently welcome an average of 12 boys and 5 girls. Their regular attendance is a powerful sign that what we provide truly resonates with them.

Several of our participants are highly autistic, and over the past quarter, we've seen remarkable progress. Children who once hesitated to join in, stayed close to their

parents or found social interaction difficult are now fully engaging in activities, chatting with our coaches, and even cracking jokes with their peers. Their growth has been truly inspiring.

Home-schooled individuals who initially struggled with social confidence. What began with uncertainty and hesitation has blossomed into new friendships. These young people now laugh, play, and bond over shared interests every week, like games and TikTok.

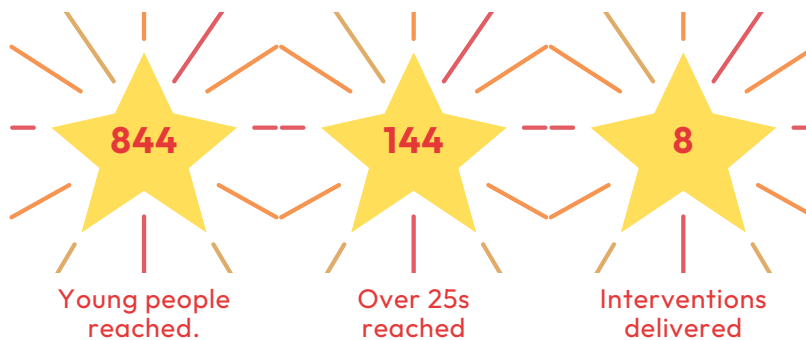
## INTERVENTIONS FOR 2025-2026

Start to Finish 1:1 support	Bike Project	St Giles Trust - Primary Inputs	St Giles Trust - Post 16 Inputs	St Giles Trust - Parent/Carers
Young people 16-24yrs referred to this support pathways to reduce reoffending.	The Bike Project allows students to build communication and practical skills in repairing a bike.	Education and awareness input into primary schools on key themes such as county lines, gangs, drugs and violence.	Education and awareness input to young people 16 years + on key themes such as county lines, gangs, drugs and violence.	Education and awareness input to local parents and carers of young people on key themes.
Engagement Programme	Blunt Truth	Diversionary & Safe Spaces	SV Duty: Social Enterprise	
Youth and community engagement in a variety of platforms.	Educating yr. 9s with practical first-aid and consequences of carrying a knife.	After school safe and diversionary spaces for young people.	Social enterprise opportunities for identify young people.	





## QUARTER 4 ACHIEVEMENTS



### Interventions;

- 1 to 1 Community Mentoring.
- Detached Youth Work.
- Education Inclusion.
- Girls & Young Women's work.
- HEAL.
- Parenting Support Groups.
- Project Hope - High Risk Over 18s.
- Targeted Outreach Work.
- Weapons & Drugs in Schools.

## SPOTLIGHT

### HELPING EMPOWER ADOLESCENTS LIVES (HEAL)

HEAL is a Mental Health and Wellbeing Service delivered by Barnardo's, who work to educate and support young people affected, indirectly, by serious violence in their community. Referrals come via the Bristol VRP, Safer Options and other community partners. HEAL deliver a three-tier support model for young people across Bristol:

- **Tier 1, Immediate Trauma Response:** A timely community-based intervention/s to those most affected by incidents of high harm.
- **Tier 2, Targeted Peer Support:** To friendship groups of young people currently accessing services in Bristol.
- **Tier 3, School-Based Programmes:** Schools and alternative learning settings with high levels of youth violence are offered mental health programmes to affected pupils.

### QUARTER FOUR

HEAL received 21 referrals during the last financial quarter; two individuals for one-to-one support and 19 for group work.

### ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS 2024-25

- Workers have participated in group and one-to-one work which included advocacy, signposting and family support. They emphasise on well being strategies that young people can use in their daily lives.
- Positive relationships with 5 Bristol Secondary Schools Safeguarding Teams have been established.
- Group work within 3 Bristol schools started.
- A group of young people from Sundanese community who witnessed their friend being stabbed, shared how much this has had an adverse effect on them and how unsafe they feel within their community.
- One of the young people who has received one-to-one support contributed to the Vanguard film about the impact of the services.



# BRISTOL VRP

## HEAL FEEDBACK

“Since C has been working with Kerry, I have seen a massive change in her attitude and behaviour and that’s all thanks to Kerry at Barnardo’s.”

Parent

“I’ve really enjoyed working with Kerry, she’s really helped me to understand how I feel, and I now feel happier at school. I am more confident and know more about relationships 😊”

Young Person

## INTERVENTIONS FOR 2025-2026

Targeted Group Work	Contextual Safeguarding	Gender specific group work	WIS & DIS	Community Mentoring
Supporting friendship groups of young people aged 11-18 involved in CCE/ SYV to manage conflict & relationships.	A bespoke intervention tailored to the outcome of the assessment and the peers or locations assessed.	A resilience, building self-esteem/ confidence, prevention of exploitation and healthy relationships.	Support for young people found in possession an offensive weapon or a controlled substance in school.	1 to 1 support - community mentoring/Youth work, delivering bespoke trauma informed package of support.
Detached Youth Work	Prevention Workshops	Parents Group	Training	SV Duty: Project Hope
Detached youth work in identified hot spot areas across the city. Supporting young people in making positive choices.	Covering SYV, Exploitation, County lines, knife crime and negative influences of social media.	Support groups for the parents & carers of young people affected by SYV, CCE and CSE.	Build capacity and sustainability with VCS groups, school staff and local businesses.	interventions for high-risk young people aged 18+ where there are concerns related to extra familial harm. Delivered in HMP Bristol.





National Knife Crime Awareness Week occurred between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of May with the Ben Kinsella Trust setting this years theme as “Change Can Happen”.

Our VRPs worked in partnership with the police, NHS and education settings to deliver a range of preventative events such as school workshops, pop-up information stands, and direct engagement with young people to encourage meaningful conversations around knife crime. Two VRP spokes also carried out surveys for young people to voice their thoughts and opinions on knife crime and safety, their vital feedback will help shape future local interventions and work.

These combined efforts underscore a shared commitment to tackling knife crime through collaboration, prevention, and community engagement.

Our next newsletter findings from the surveys, an overview and pictures of the activities that took place.



The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Clare Moody, chairs our Serious Violence Reduction Partnership Board meetings. Last month, Clare reflected on her first year as PCC, [click here to read her article](#).

## SPOTLIGHT

### JOIN A PUBLIC FORUM WITH PCC CLARE MOODY

The Violence Reduction Partnership will be hosting a stand at each of the forthcoming public forums. The forums will provide those attending with the opportunity to:

- Hear a progress update from PCC Clare Moody, on the Police & Crime Plan priorities.
- Meet and hear from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- Attendees can share any 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** - completed.
- **Somerset West** (Taunton), Taunton Rugby Football Club, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.
- **South Gloucestershire**, Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.
- **North Somerset**, Weston Museum, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- **B&NES**, The Salvation Army (Bath), Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- **Bristol**, The Station- Creative Youth Network, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Visit the [OPCC website](#) for forum updates.

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](https://asvrp.co.uk).  
Stay connected and up to date by following us on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

Together, we can make a difference!

