



Avon & Somerset

Violence Reduction Partnership

2024-2025 Annual Report



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Foreword

This last financial year has been a year of meaningful progress for the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (ASVRP). Guided by our shared mission to prevent serious youth violence and create safer communities, we have continued to strengthen our evidence-led, partnership-driven approach.

Through our hub and spoke model and robust quarterly reporting, we have been able to identify and respond quickly to emerging local risk factors, as well as incidents relating to serious youth violence. By bringing together expertise from across health, education, policing, community organisations, and beyond, we have collectively co-designed targeted interventions that focus on prevention and provide tailored support for young people most at risk.

Collectively, we have delivered 39 interventions, reaching 13,825 young people, 778 over 25s (including parents and carers), and 1,101 professionals, in collaboration with more than 50 delivery partners.

Our strategy remains iterative and responsive, evolving in step with the partnership's growth. Together, we are laying the foundations for a sustainable, joined-up approach to tackling serious violence, one that not only addresses today's challenges but also invests in a safer future for the next generation.

Despite the challenging landscape of short-term funding cycles, we are proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to deepening this impact in the year ahead. We would like to thank all our partners for their dedication, expertise, and collaboration, which make this work possible.

Warm regards,

Natalie Lavis
ASVRP Director

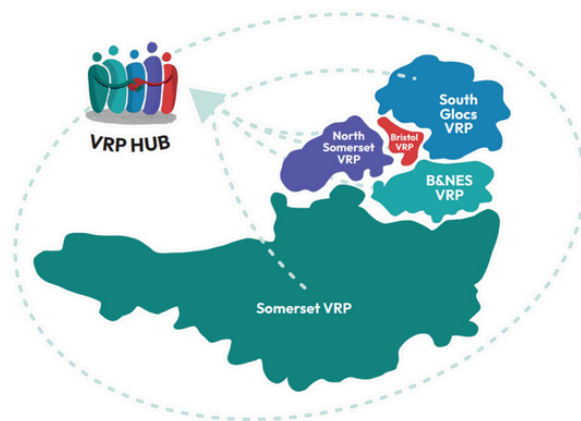


Natalie Lavis joined the partnership in January 2024 as the VRP's inaugural Director. She leads the delivery of the region's violence reduction strategy and ensures compliance with the Home Office's Violence Reduction Unit and Serious Violence Duty grant requirements.

About Us

The Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) was established in 2019 with £1.16 million in Home Office funding as part of a national effort to tackle serious violence. Operating under a 'Hub and Spoke' model, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) runs the Hub which provides strategic

leadership and governance for the partnership, while the five local authorities lead the work within the five Local VRP areas delivering tailored, place-based responses.



The VRP takes a multi-agency, public health approach, at both a strategic and operational level. This approach unites partners from policing, local government, health, education, fire, justice, and communities to address the root causes of serious violence and drive long-term cultural change.

The VRP is underpinned by the creation of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in 2019, which are supported by direct government funding from the Home Office and the Serious Violence Duty, which became law in January 2023. It legally requires agencies to collaborate in tackling serious youth violence through a public health lens, reinforcing the foundation of the partnership.

Our 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.

Our 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.

Our Mission

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

THE ASVRP BOARD

This executive-level body oversees the collective efforts to tackle serious violence in the region. It was established as part of the updated VRP governance framework, in July 2023. The Board meets quarterly in person, and as of June 2024, the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner, Clare Moody, has taken on the role of Chair.

The partnership and wider stakeholders are dedicated to delivering the Response Strategy, which outlines the approach strategic themes and priorities, key workstreams, and the process for monitoring and evaluating impact. This is supported by a programme-level Theory of Change that explains how all investments and activities are expected to lead to short and medium term outcomes, as well as the overall impact.

OUR SHARED DEFINITION

Below is our shared definition, which serves as a guide to ensure we maintain a clear focus on priorities across the region.

“

The A&S VRP 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 recognize 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.

”

STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (SNA)

The ASVRP produced a SNA using local data, community insight, and evidence-based practice, in line with the Serious Violence Duty. The assessment outlines the partnership’s strategic priorities, commitments, and responses to tackling serious violence across the region. The ASVRP aims to deliver a coordinated, preventative, and sustainable approach to reduce serious violence and build safer communities. The SNA is updated annually. In 2024/25, SNA local profiles were created for each of the five VRP areas to improve understanding of local differences across our diverse region. [Click here to read a full copy of the SNA.](#)

OUR THREE CORE PRIORITIES

The ASVRP strategic approach is built on three core priorities grounded in our vision, purpose, and mission. Our focus is serious public violence involving weapons, prioritising youth under 25 years. These priorities underpin everything we do and plan to achieve.

1

PEOPLE: Eliminate serious violence, protect the vulnerable and create safer communities, through the opportunities provided by the evolving Violence Reduction Partnership.

2

PLACES: Create safer and more resilient communities for now and the generations to come, by reducing serious violent incidents across Avon and Somerset.

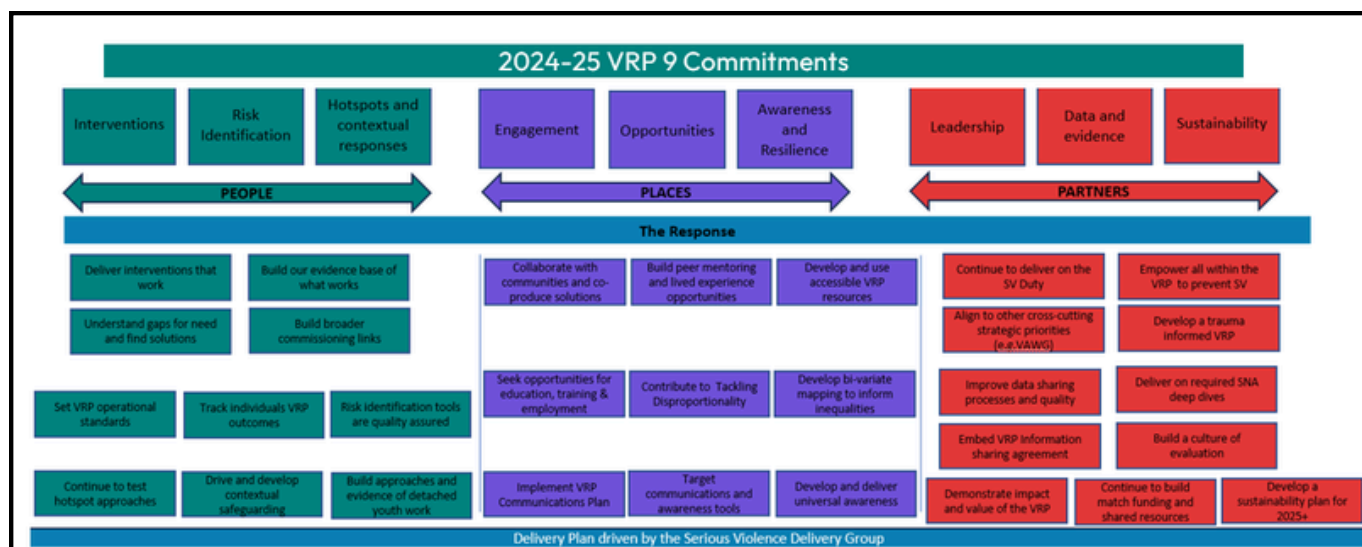
3

PARTNERS: 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.



ASVRP COMMITMENTS.

The diagram below outlines the strategy framework and shows how the three core priorities connect. It sets out nine key commitments of the partnership, which guide our responses. Thirty specific responses have been included in the strategy, which guides and defines our collaborative work.



OUR PARTNERSHIP

As a partnership dedicated to improving outcomes for young people, the Avon and Somerset VRP focuses on identifying and responding to the most pressing local risk factors driving serious youth violence. Through our hub and spoke model and quarterly reporting, we ensure our work remains evidence-led and responsive to emerging trends. By engaging a wide range of partners, we harness collective expertise to co-design targeted interventions. We also continue to strengthen the quality and sharing of key data, including health and education where possible, to build a shared understanding across the system and support more effective, joined-up action.

- **Identifying and focusing on the most pressing risk factors**

We are committed to understanding and addressing the most pressing risk factors affecting young people in each local area. Using local insight and data, we adapt our focus to emerging needs and ensure our interventions remain relevant and responsive.

- **Engaging partners on these risk factors to leverage expertise**

Our five VRPs actively engage a wide range of partners to co-design and deliver interventions around priority risk factors and prevention. This collaboration ensures our work is informed by specialist knowledge and driven by a shared commitment to improving outcomes for young people.

- **Improving data quality and access and supporting effective data sharing between partners**

We prioritise high-quality, accessible data to support a collective understanding of risks and trends affecting young people. Through quarterly reporting, we build a more accurate, joined-up picture to guide prevention and early intervention efforts.



INDEPENDENT NATIONAL EVALUATION

Performance data indicates that Violence Reduction Units of which there are twenty nationally, including our own, the Violence Reduction Partnership), are having a positive impact on reducing serious violence in public places.

ECORYS conducted an independent programme evaluation for the Home Office covering the period 2023 to 2024. Their report highlights promising reductions in homicides and hospital admissions, including a statistically significant reduction in assaults among under 25s. Furthermore, consistent reductions in hospital admissions across consecutive evaluation periods suggest that Serious Violence Funding is likely having a meaningful effect.

ECORYS also confirms that VRUs play a crucial role in the following areas, all of which are already incorporated into our response planning for 2025/26 and beyond, contingent on continued funding:

- Identifying and focusing on the most pressing risk factors.
- Engaging partners on these risk factors to leverage expertise.
- Improving data quality and access (including health and education data), and supporting effective data sharing between partners.
- Strengthening partnership working through shared opportunities and meaningful engagement of communities and young people.
- Implementing theories of change and robust monitoring of interventions.

The Home Office has set out some common success measures for all Violence Reduction Units: NHS hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object; Knife/sharp enabled serious violence recorded by the police (for all ages); and homicides recorded by the police. Locally, we also consider several key performance measures to assess our progress in tackling serious violence, with a particular focus on our local definition of street-based serious violence involving individuals under the age of 25.

Each quarter, Avon and Somerset Police provide the VRP SV Board with a statistical picture of incidents that have taken place across the region.

In 2024/25, there were 4,009 street-based serious violence offences recorded in Avon and Somerset. This was 354 more offences than in 2023/24, representing a 9.7% increase. Of those offences, 1,309 were identified as involving a knife or bladed article, which was a slight reduction of 3 offences compared with 2023/24.

SERIOUS VIOLENCE DATA 2024-2025

Overall, **33% of street-based serious violence offences in 2024/25 involved a knife or bladed article**. This is a slight reduction from the previous year, when 36% of such offences involved these weapons.

- There were 9 street-based homicides in 2024/25 across Avon and Somerset, which is a **reduction of 8 from the previous year**. Every one of these homicides represents a tragic loss of life.
- Street-based serious violence increased across all five local authority areas in 2024/25 compared with the previous year. However, all five areas saw lower offence levels in the final quarter of the year compared with the same quarter in 2023/24. The partnership will monitor this downward trend closely to see if it continues into the coming year.
- Finally, looking specifically at the situation regarding children and young people under 25 years of age: Local Measures. Below is an overview of some of the performance measures from across 2024-2025:

Street-Based Serious Violence (age categories under 18 years and 18-24 years).



Data source - Avon and Somerset Police April 2025.

- **Balanced Victim Age Groups:** Across Avon and Somerset, crime volumes were similar for victims under 18 and those aged 18-24, with only a slight increase (1.7%) in crimes involving the 18-24 age group.
- **Offender Patterns and Identification:** There were 3.2% more crimes involving offenders under 18 compared to those aged 18-24. This may reflect easier identification of under-18s through school attendance (e.g., those not in full-time education).
- **Crime types:** Where **victims under 18** were involved the most common crime type was **Threatening with a Blade or Knife**. With **victims aged 18-24**, the most common crime type was **Personal Robbery**. Where offenders were **under 18**, **Possessing a Blade or Knife** and **Threatening with Blade or Knife** were the most common crime types. Where offenders were aged 18 to 24, the most common crime type was **Possession of a Blade or Knife**.
- **NHS hospital admissions** for assaults involving a knife or sharp object in Avon and Somerset declined compared with baseline data set in 2019, showing **a 25% reduction across all age groups** and a significant 29% decrease among those under 25.





VRU GRANT

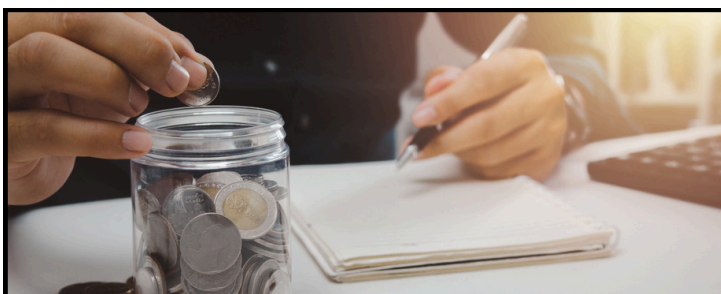
£1,512,572.00

ALLOCATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

The Home Office awarded Avon and Somerset VRP an annual core Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Grant. The table to the right shows a breakdown of funding allocations, made by the ASVRP Executive Board. .

The VRU grant stipulated a minimum of 30% of the total grant value was allocated to meet Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) requirements and that a minimum of 10% was to be directed toward evaluation activities. Finally, 20% of the funding was subject to match funding. These allocations were made in accordance with the grant's terms and conditions.

Somerset	£365,582
Bristol	£389,947
B&NES	£112,503
North Somerset	£136,178
South Glos	£155,790
VRP Hub	£318,356
Data Project (Hub)	£34,216

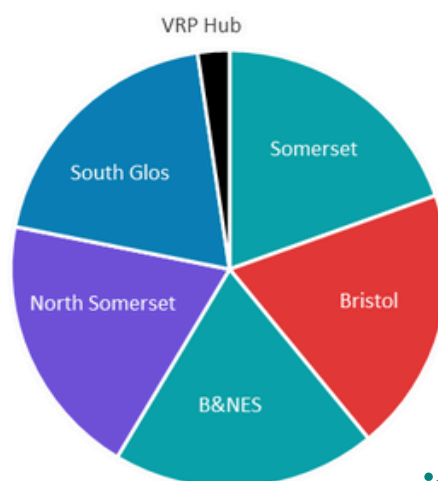


SV DUTY GRANT

£124,714.00

ALLOCATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

The Serious Violence (SV) Duty grant is provided to support local areas in delivering their responsibilities under the Serious Violence Duty, such as needs assessments, strategy development, and partnership coordination. ASVRP allocated each Local VRP (via the local authority) with £21,942.80, whilst the VRP Hub was awarded £15,000 to support its convening role. The pie chart to the left provides a diagram of this allocated spend.





Avon & Somerset

**Violence
Reduction
Partnership**

**Our
2024/25
Work**



AVON & SOMERSET VRP

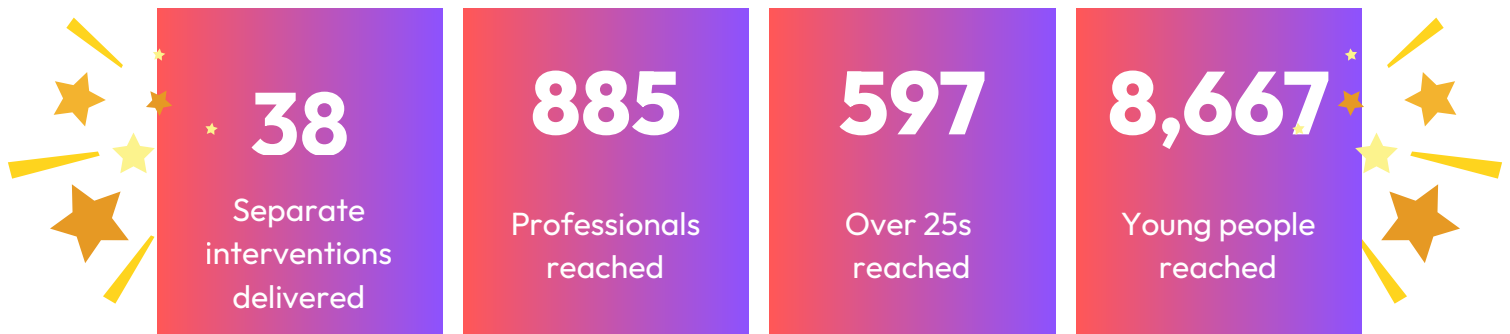
2024-2025

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

Our five Local VRPs are focused on understanding and addressing the most pressing risk factors affecting young people in each local area. Using local insight and data, they adapt their focus to emerging needs and ensure interventions remain relevant and responsive, engaging a wide range of partners to co-design and deliver interventions around priority risk factors and prevention.

The Local VRPs all operate systems to identify young people engaged in, or at risk of being drawn into violence and seek to divert them into interventions to provide support. Recognising that young people's lives are not defined by local authority boundaries they also work across local borders where appropriate to ensure that young people who are at risk are identified and support is offered.

COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS



The next section of this annual report provides an overview of the work of each of the Local VRPs in 2024/25.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

Over the year we have worked to widen the partnership to bring in key partners who have a role to play in supporting collective work to reduce levels of serious violence involving children and young people. The Youth Justice Board joined the partnership in June 2024 to strengthen our collective focus on . The Local Youth Justice Services are all active members of their Local VRP strategic groups but the further engagement of the YJB at the executive board is an important development which will help us further enhance our focus on children who are on the edge of the criminal justice system and enhance our links with Youth Justice Service initiatives such as Turnaround. In autumn 2024 the Department for Work and Pensions joined us, which is an important development in enhancing our focus on how we can build positive opportunities for young people and help them to access training and work opportunities.

The partnership also worked together to develop a new Child Critical Incident Toolkit, more details on page 38 of this report.





AVON & SOMERSET VRP

2024-2025

EVIDENCE AND EVALUATION

Understanding the root causes and drivers of serious youth violence in our local area and what works in addressing those factors is a core area of focus for the partnership.

This year the partnership has worked to update its Serious Violence Needs Assessment. This year the assessment has been underpinned by the development of 5 local problem profiles for each of the Local VRP areas which provide a more localised assessment to further inform our understanding and local planning and decision making. There have been a number of challenges in progressing this work, including resourcing and data access but the final SNA which was published in the final quarter of the year is an important tool to inform our work.

Evaluating the impact of our work has progressed over the year but remains a key area of focus for the coming year. Evaluations have been carried out on a number of interventions, including the A&E Navigators Project, the Teachable Moments Programme, the Belonging Programme and we began an important partnership with the University of Bristol, launching a project to carry out external impact evaluations of two interventions in Bristol (the 121 community mentoring programme and the Weapons and Drugs in Schools programme). This evaluation work will continue into the coming year where we will also be developing impact evaluations for another two projects.

Preventing serious violence and understanding the impact of early intervention work can be extremely challenging in numerical terms. As such, alongside formal evaluations it is important to look at case studies and feedback to understand the impact that projects and interventions have had on the children and young people they are working with. This feedback, whilst not an academic evaluation is a vital tool in assessing whether we are investing limited funding in the right locations. Throughout the Local VRP Reports in this annual report and through social media, our website and the ASVRP's quarterly newsletter which launched at the end of the year we will continue to highlight case studies to raise awareness of the powerful impact that projects can and do have on individual lives every day.





Avon & Somerset

**Violence
Reduction
Partnership**

Local VRP Reports



SOMERSET VRP 2024-2025

OVERVIEW

The Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) operates as a subgroup of the Safer Somerset Partnership, bringing together partners to collaboratively understand and tackle serious violence. Our goal is to adopt a multi-agency approach to reducing serious violence within our local communities. We will achieve this by identifying and implementing the most effective strategies to prevent and reduce violence.

2024-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

5

Separate
interventions
delivered

42

Professionals
reached

46

Over 25s
reached

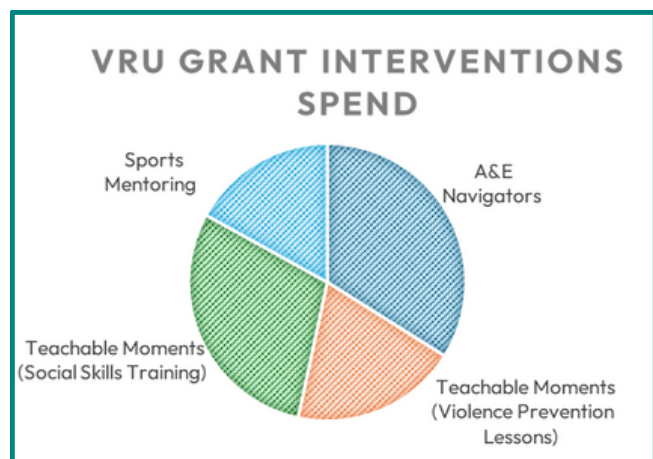
616

Young people
reached

GRANT FUNDING

VRU GRANT

Somerset VRP received £365,582.00 from the Home Office VRU Grant, spending was allocated to interventions, as shown in the chart and towards staff costs, which including development training (linked to the Somerset Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan).



SV DUTY GRANT

Somerset VRP received £21,942.80 from the Serious Violence (SV) Duty Grant, which was spent on labour and non labour costings, including education workshops with a focus on social skills and relationships.

SOMERSET VRP DELIVERY PARTNERS

Somerset VRP works in collaboration with a range of partners and has commissioned five different organisations to deliver targeted interventions for local young people. They include:



Somerset Youth Justice Team

Click on the logo to be taken to their website.





SOMERSET VRP 2024-25 INTERVENTIONS



ADMIT (A&E NAVIGATORS):

Two Turning Point substance misuse workers are based in the main hospital A&Es, providing support to individuals under 25 affected by substance misuse, violence, or knife crime. Those over 25 with similar needs are referred to the main service hub.

The YEF toolkit has rated A&E Navigators as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime

Overview of 2024-2025:

The service operated at Yeovil Hospital and Taunton Hospital on set days and times throughout the year, supporting 59 young people, 46 over-25s, and 33 professionals in the last financial year. Training has improved referral links with Young Somerset, the Emergency Duty Team, and Somerset and Sports Partnership's Mentoring Service. During the course of the year, and following the findings of the May 2024 Joint Targeted Area Inspection of serious youth violence in Somerset, additional work took place with hospital safeguarding teams to strengthen collaboration.

SPORTS MENTORING:

Young people at risk of anti-social behaviour are offered holistic mentoring and integration into community activities.

The YEF toolkit has rated Sports Programmes as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

SPORTS MENTORING:

Overview of 2024-2025:

Regular partner meetings have improved referrals, outcome monitoring, and collaboration. Thirty-two young people at risk of ASB received holistic mentoring and community activity integration through SASP Jump Start..

TM - SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING:

This Teachable Moments (TM) tailored social skills and healthy relationships intervention was delivered in secondary schools within high-demand communities, targeting groups or individuals identified by schools or police.

The YEF toolkit has rated Social Skills Training as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Over the year, 54 young people received this intervention across various schools. The programme moved to Somerset Council's Family Intervention Service, enabling more flexible delivery. The intervention supported social skills, emotional regulation, peer risk awareness, and mental health. Over 70% of participants improved their school attendance

TM - VIOLENCE PREVENTION LESSONS:

These lessons aim to prevent youth violence through timely, contextualised support for young people identified as at risk. Delivered through one-to-one sessions, the intervention addresses a range of complex and overlapping issues including knife crime, exploitation, physical violence, and related behaviours.





SOMERSET VRP 2024-25 INTERVENTIONS

TM - VIOLENCE PREVENTION LESSONS:

Overview of 2024-2025:

Nineteen young people across 11 schools received this program in quarter 3, and 2 more young people from 1 school were supported in the last quarter. Topics included knife crime, exploitation, school- and home-based violence, and dealing in vapes. During the same period, the program moved from the Youth Justice Team to the Family Intervention Service to allow more flexible, child-centred delivery and improve sustainability. This transition also supported a review of the Theory of Change and initiated embedding outcome monitoring into the Leaving Care Service recording system.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS:

Unique Voice CIC delivered the Seeking Belonging programme, a creative early intervention designed to equip young people with the awareness, confidence, and knowledge to navigate social challenges safely.

Overview of 2024-2025:

The session featured a film and discussion on belonging, followed by 1-hour workshops using drama and activities to build resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. Skilled Unique Voice facilitators led all parts. The programme engaged approximately 450 children across four primary schools, delivering 13 workshops to six Year 5 classes and seven Year 6 classes.



SOMERSET VRP 2024-25 HIGHLIGHT YOUTH HUBS

Sergeant Charmaine Dyne (pictured left) from the Avon and Somerset Police Early Intervention Team led two multi-agency problem-solving plans aimed at improving perceptions of safety and reducing incidents of youth violence in the areas most affected across Somerset.



BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

A five-year analysis of incident data revealed a consistent pattern: while the individuals involved in violent incidents varied, the locations remained largely the same. In response, this problem-solving work focused on reducing the impact of violence on children in identified trouble spots. The two main objectives were to decrease the frequency of violence involving those under 18 and to reduce the associated harm in these areas.

HIGHLIGHT YOUTH HUBS

Highlight Youth Hubs were launched as part of a broader programme of work, including education initiatives, updated guidance for individuals involved in ASB, resources highlighting the links to youth violence, and the launch of a new webpage.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The two Highlight Youth Hubs were established in key locations during peak times:

- Bridgwater – Every Friday, 3.00–5.00pm Coffee #1. Please note this is a new time.
- Taunton – Every Saturday, 3.00–5.00pm at McDonald's on East Street.

The team have engaged with over 1,800 children and young people.





SOMERSET VRP 2024-25

HIGHLIGHT YOUTH HUBS

Achievements

During 2024–25, following the introduction of the Taunton hub, **violent crime affecting under-18s decreased by 59%**, and the average violent crime score in the Taunton area of concern fell by 56%. **With fewer children becoming involved in violence in the area.** Additionally, the number of days with reported violent crime has declined, and police report no evidence of crime displacement. The Taunton hub also received positive feedback from partners and the local community.

Although there has been an increase in the volume and severity of violence in Bridgwater, this trend is believed to be influenced by a small group of persistent offenders who appear to be contributing disproportionately to youth violence in the area.



LOOKING AHEAD

Thanks to new funding, both Highlight Youth Hubs will continue operating into the new financial year.

- The Taunton Highlight Hub will continue to be held at McDonald's, East Street, on Saturdays at the same times.
- The Bridgwater Hub will remain at Coffee #1 on Fore Street, running every Friday a new time of 15.00 to 17:00. The new time aims to engage more young people as they make their way home from school.

There are also exciting plans in progress to relocate the Hub to a new Young Somerset Shop on the ground floor of Angel Place. And for this work to be expanded across Somerset.

The hubs show a shared commitment to safer spaces and reducing youth violence.





BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET VRP 2024-2025

OVERVIEW

The Bath & North East Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (B&NES VRP) is a multi-agency group dedicated to preventing and reducing violence in the local area. By collaborating with partners, the VRP seeks to understand and tackle the root causes of violence, conduct needs assessments, and identify gaps in services and practice, all with the goal of preventing future violent crime.

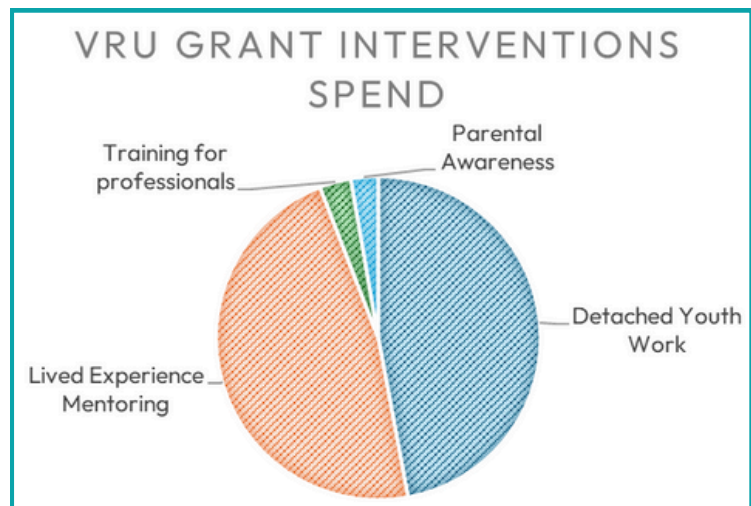
2024-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS



GRANT FUNDING

VRU GRANT

B&NES VRP received £112,503.00 from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Grant, which went towards the interventions in the graph (right) and staffing costs. These interventions are a continuation of those delivered in previous years.



SV DUTY GRANT

B&NES VRP received £21,942.80 from the Serious Violence (SV) Duty Grant, which was allocated to both labour and non-labour costs. Including a spent on delivering the 'Parental Knife Awareness & Social Media Sessions'.

B&NES VRP DELIVERY PARTNERS

B&NES VRP works in collaboration with a range of partners and has commissioned six different organisations to deliver targeted interventions for local young people. They include:



Click on the logo to be taken to their website.





B&NES VRP 2024-25

INTERVENTIONS

DETACHED YOUTH WORK:

Detached youth workers engage with children and young people in targeting areas across B&NES, in community settings, offering support, building trusting relationships, and promoting positive activities.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Detached Youth Workers engaged with 2,658 young people across B&NES, focusing on areas where young people are at risk of serious youth violence. Delivering street-based outreach, promoting positive activities and offering support on issues like ASB, substance use, and sexual health.

Notable progress was made with core youth groups, and new contacts were established, including students from a specific school. The team supported summer programmes and service changes, ensuring continuity of care and safeguarding.

EVENTS:

A series of targeted events for young people and professionals, including awareness sessions, assemblies, and a professionals conference.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Activity started with an event at Bath College, which, despite adverse weather, was well attended and received positive feedback (including a parent offering to support future work). A lived-experience assembly reached 160 young people and was highly successful. B&NES VRP also hosted their fourth annual professionals conference in March 2025 covering 'Exploitation and Youth Violence', with Key note speaker Craig Pinkney, CEO of Solve, exploring the national landscape of exploitation, delving into the multifaceted ways it impacts children and young people. Ninety professionals attended and gave excellent feedback.

LIVED EXPERIENCE MENTORING:

This initiative supports children affected by exploitation or serious violence by connecting them with local mentors who share similar life experiences. It promotes positive change and empowers young people to support each other and strengthen their communities.

The YEF toolkit has rated Mentoring as having a moderate estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Mentors supported 10 young people, with strong engagement and positive behaviour changes reported by parents. One mentee began attending a boxing club independently, reducing anger at home. Challenges included language barriers, school access, and staff illness, but these are improving. Sessions are flexible, held in the community or family hub based on mentees' needs.

TRAINING:

A training program was developed for professionals working with children and young adults at risk of serious violence in B&NES. The focus was on improving understanding, particularly of the impact of social media on youth violence, building on work from 2023/24. The training content was shaped with input from the professionals involved.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Thirty-seven night time professionals received tailored training.

PARENTS/CARER EVENTS:

B&NES VRP facilitated five knife crime awareness events for parents and carers. These sessions featured talks from individuals with lived experience

Overview of 2024-2025:

A total of 92 parents and carers attended, with many describing the events as powerful and impactful.





B&NES VRP 2024-25

PARTNERSHIPS

The Centre for Youth Violence & Conflict (SOLVE)

is a nationally recognised CIC addressing youth violence and conflict through community engagement, professional empowerment, and direct work with young people.

Alternative Programme Overview:

Between September 2024 and March 2025, SOLVE CYVC delivered the Alternative Routes Programme across B&NES through funding from the B&NES VRP. The initiative aimed to educate, empower, and protect young people by providing targeted, age-appropriate workshops in educational and health settings.

Workshops Delivered:

Twenty-six workshops were delivered across 11 schools, two colleges, and one hospital, reaching 2,986 young people.

Each session was carefully tailored to suit age and need, ensuring accessibility and relevance to both primary and secondary audiences. Core topics focused on prevention, self-awareness, peer influence, community safety, and critical thinking.

Impact and Measurable Outcomes:

The programme continues to demonstrate clear and significant outcomes, with young people feedback showing:

- 94% would recommend this to a friend.
- 92% understand the consequences of crime and exploitation.
- 89% know where to get help/support.
- 87% confident making positive choices.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM:

Project 28 & Youth Connect South West have continued to work collaboratively and make significant strides in supporting vulnerable young people across BANES. This program included detached youth work and targeted interventions, addressing substance misuse, exploitation, to serious youth violence.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM:

The partnership has built stronger relationships with young people, families, and local services, laying the groundwork for lasting positive change in the community.

Key Achievements (2024-25):

- 3,576 young people engaged, a 12.7% increase from the previous year.
- Improved behaviour and reduced police presence in the city centre.
- Provision of a safe youth space.
- Increased referrals for support e.g. mental-health and drug-misuse.
- 76 young people trained in first aid by Street Doctors.
- Engagement in outdoor activities and youth-led planning.
- Ongoing collaboration with partners for early intervention and safeguarding.

SOUTHSIDE was commissioned to design, develop and pilot a **Lived Experience Mentoring scheme** to support young people who have been exploited, involved in, or at risk of serious violence. Trained mentors with personal and professional experience of trauma provided tailored, trauma-informed support using the Non-Violent Resistance approach. Young people were supported in managing challenging behaviour, re-engaged with support, and build trust. Families were supported in creating safer and more stable home environments.

Key Achievements (2024-25):

- Nine young males received mentoring, with most cases ongoing. Key outcomes include: improved behaviour, self-esteem, relationships, and aspirations, alongside reduced isolation and risk.
- The mentors' lived experience has proved vital in engaging young people who have previously been distrustful of support services.

This work has demonstrated the clear value of timely, relatable, and targeted support in transforming young lives.





SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP 2024-2025

OVERVIEW

South Gloucestershire is a safe place to live and work but incidents of serious violence do occasionally occur. South Gloucestershire VRP is a collaboration of partners who work together using 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. South Gloucestershire has a clear focus on early intervention and prevention.

2024-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

12

Interventions
delivered

470

Professionals
reached

3,372

Young people
reached

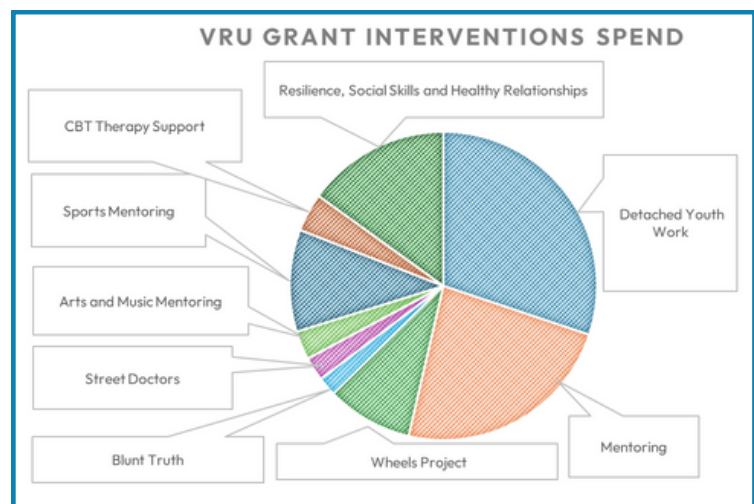
GRANT FUNDING

VRU GRANT

South Gloucestershire VRP was awarded £155,790.00 from the VRU Grant, with 64% allocated towards interventions (pictured right) and part on staffing costs.

SV DUTY GRANT

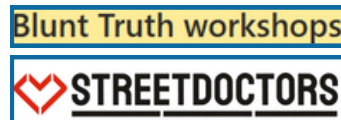
South Gloucestershire VRP received £21,942.80 from the SV Duty Grant. This was spent on labour and non-labour costs. Including the Knife Crime Awareness and Engagement Programs for young people in alternative educational settings.



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP DELIVERY PARTNERS

South Gloucestershire VRP works in collaboration with a range of partners and has commissioned different organisations to deliver targeted interventions for local young people. They include:

Click on the logo to be taken to their website.





SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP 2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS

MENTORING:

A one-to-one mentoring support service delivered over a period with at high-risk young people. The program focuses on reducing risk and harm, building confidence, and supporting the development of protective behaviour strategies to enhance long-term resilience and wellbeing.

The YEF toolkit has rated Mentoring as having a moderate estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

One-to-one mentoring was provided to 26 high-risk young people as part of a targeted support programme by Bxcellence. The mentoring led to positive outcomes across the cohort, with many young people reducing risk-taking behaviours and increasing engagement in education, employment, or training. Practical support was also provided around housing, education, and employment, alongside open and challenging conversations about safety, exploitation, and criminality.

EDUCATION INCLUSION PROJECT (EIP):

One-to-one support is offered to young people who are at risk of being excluded from education and becoming involved in serious youth violence. It supports the young person, their parents, and their school to identify and overcome challenges, with the goal of keeping them in education and reducing the risk of SYV and exploitation.

Overview of 2024-2025

EIP the project supported:

- 65 secondary school young people
- 12 primary aged children transitioning to secondary education (where school had concerned about resilience and risk of future permanent exclusion).
- 93.5% students remained in education following this intervention.

270 professionals received training on the Theory of Change, trauma recovery, and the Good Lives Model, which was praised as powerful and practical by school leaders.

WHEELS PROJECT:

This weekly hands-on kart driving, kart building, and vehicle maintenance initiative provides structured, engaging alternatives for high-risk young people (not currently in full-time education). It aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and support positive development.

The YEF toolkit has rated Focused deterrence as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

The project worked with 15 young people and saw positive outcomes, including returns to education, reduced anti-social behaviour, and one participant receiving a Young People's Policing Award.

Transport challenges affected consistency in the second quarter, but support resumed in the third quarter, helping rebuild trusted relationships.

Feedback from young people highlighted improved skills, communication, mental health, and future job prospects.

STREET DOCTORS:

Trainee doctors delivered practical first aid training to young people in youth club settings. Equipping them with the confidence and knowledge to provide potentially life-saving assistance, including how to respond to unconscious patients and bleeding emergencies.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Street Doctors successfully delivered first aid training to 180 young people. This included 18 young people who took part in an adapted age appropriate session. These practical sessions were well-received, with strong engagement and participation throughout.





SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP 2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS

BLUNT TRUTH:

This educational workshop is delivered by the police in partnership with the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity. Targeted at secondary school year groups, the program provides guidance on how to respond if someone is known to be carrying weapons. The session also includes a practical first aid component focused on managing knife injuries.

Overview of 2024-2025:

This year, 351 young people received the Blunt Truth workshop in South Gloucestershire secondary schools, with positive feedback from students and staff.

SPORTS PROGRAMME:

Empire Fighting Chance offers sporting activities for young people involved in anti-social behaviour, at risk of exclusion (PEX), or not in education, employment, or training (NEET). The programme features non-contact boxing sessions facilitated by experienced mentors, boxing champion, boxing therapist, and a boxing careers coach. The sessions focus on building discipline, confidence, and positive life skills through safe, supportive sport.

The YEF toolkit has rated Sports Programmes as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Fifty-two young people took part in the programme, across multiple secondary schools. With an initial focus on those with attendance problems or school suspension there were some initial issues around consistency but adjustments to the delivery model improved engagement, and feedback has been positive. Notable outcomes include a NEET young person progressing into personal trainer training. The programme was also promoted through a filmed feature at Patchway School, shared on council social media.

“

The box Champions programme run by Empire Fighting Chance, has proven to be immensely beneficial for our young people. The improvements I have observed in teamwork, self-control, communication, and confidence since the beginning of the programme have been very noticeable during the sessions.

School Feedback.

”

DETACHED YOUTH WORK:

Delivered by three providers: Foundation for Active Community Engagement (FACE), Learning Partnership West (LPW), and Creative Youth Network (CYN). Youth workers engage with young people in community spaces, offering advice, guidance, and signposting to relevant services. They maintain a visible and approachable presence in areas of concern to build trust and provide support.

Overview of 2024-2025:

1,281 young people engaged with detached outreach youth workers, who set up in agreed areas and responded flexibly to emerging hotspots.

A key development was the launch of “Doris,” a mobile youth bus funded by the South Gloucestershire VRP, which enabled outreach in remote areas and maintained engagement during poor weather.

Providers ran targeted interventions including:

- LPW’s basketball sessions in Yate to address anti-social behaviour.
- A music event and intervention on knife crime and postcode tensions, delivered by FACE and CYN.
- A well-received graffiti event hosted by FACE.

Detached youth workers also continued to signpost young people to local services and sessions. Planning is underway to use Doris at community events and festivals throughout the summer.





SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP 2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS

ARTS & MUSIC MENTORING:

These targeted creative activities range from creating murals, to music studio sessions for NEET young people or those at risk of exploitation or serious youth violence. This mentoring provides a positive, artistic outlet.

The YEF toolkit has rated Mentoring as having a moderate estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

This 6-week targeted programme, delivered by BeXcellence, engaged six young people who had been involved in anti-social behaviour and supported them in creating music.

YOUTH THERAPY/PLAY:

This tailored one-to-one therapeutic imitative supports young people identified as at risk of serious youth violence (SYV) or those who have experienced trauma due to SYV.

The YEF toolkit has rated Trauma-Specific Therapy as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Thirteen young people took part in HorseWorld's Discovery program, which we commissioned to provide therapeutic support to small groups vulnerable to exploitation, serious youth violence, or poor mental health due to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

UNIQUE VOICE - DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS:

Unique Voice CIC delivered the Seeking Belonging programme, a creative early intervention designed to equip young people with the awareness, confidence, and knowledge to navigate social challenges safely.

The YEF toolkit has rated Social Skills Training as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

The well-received intervention has been delivered in over 30 schools since it began in late 2023, with each school reaching approximately 60 pupils in Years 5 and 6.

This year, a total of 916 young people across received this intervention. Additional support was provided to 1,390 year 6 students transitioning into secondary schools, in particularly those in smaller primary schools.

Feedback from schools praised the engaging, age-appropriate content and its value in promoting healthy relationships and supporting transitions.

UNIQUE VOICE - TRAIN THE TRAINER:

Unique Voice deliver tailored Continuing Professional Development to professionals who work with young people.

Overview of 2024-2025:

200 professionals, mainly educators and social care staff received this train the trainer training.





SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP 2024-2025 YOUTH BUS 'DORIS'



Avon and Somerset PCC, Clare Moody with South Gloucestershire VRP and local young people.

In July 2024, South Gloucestershire marked a major step forward in youth engagement and outreach with the official launch of its new youth bus, DORIS (Delivery Of Rural Inclusion and Support). The vibrant and creatively designed vehicle was unveiled at Patchway Youth Centre and is already making a meaningful impact in communities across the district.

The youth bus represents a dynamic and inclusive approach to detached youth work, offering a mobile, accessible space for young people who may not attend traditional youth settings. Designed in collaboration with young people themselves, DORIS is equipped with a range of features including a built-in sound bar, TV, microwave, hot water, and Wi-Fi. These amenities create a safe, welcoming environment where young people can connect, access support, and engage in positive activities.

DORIS is more than a vehicle, it is a powerful tool for inclusion and prevention. Supported by funding from the South Gloucestershire VRP, alongside Public Health and Home Office contributions, the bus allows youth workers and outreach teams to deliver targeted early interventions. These efforts are focused on identifying and responding to challenging behaviours before they escalate, thereby playing a vital role in the prevention of serious violence.

“

“We recognise that whilst many young people visit a youth club, some don’t or can’t, so youth workers will also take youth work out to where the young people are.”

”

Councillor Sean Rhodes, Cabinet Member for Communities & Local Place.

The bus’s launch coincided with the installation of new bleed kits at Patchway Youth Centre and other locations across the area. These kits form part of the wider VRP initiative to reduce the impact of serious violence and support community safety.

In 2024 alone, over 4,300 young people benefited from positive activities supported by youth work across South Gloucestershire. The addition of the youth bus reinforces the partnerships commitment to creating opportunities, building trust, and making services more accessible to all young people, wherever they are.

The South Gloucestershire VRP continued to fund detached youth work across the region, with support from Learning Partnership West, Creative Youth Network, and FACE. These Youth Detached Workers engaged directly with young people in the community, delivering educational sessions on important topics such as serious youth violence, exploitation, healthy relationships, and community safety. The detached youth work team were able to provide a safe and welcoming mobile space with DORIS, enabling young people access information, support, and positive activities. In addition to raising awareness, the detached teams provided valuable signposting to local youth services, ensuring young people could access the support they needed.





SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VRP 2024-2025 RECOGNITION



Avon and Somerset PC Anthony Treadwell

Avon and Somerset Police Constable Anthony Treadwell is a vital member of the South Gloucestershire VRP Early Intervention Team. His work includes safeguarding children and young people at risk of serious youth violence and criminal exploitation. Anthony has a remarkable ability to build trusting relationships with young people, which has led to disclosures that enabled the partnership to disrupt and investigate a dangerous

adult exploiter for modern slavery offences. The VRP is incredibly proud of the safety and protection he has provided to vulnerable children in South Gloucestershire and nominated him for the 2025 Outstanding Policing Awards in March 2025. Anthony was a finalist and recognised for his remarkable attitude and approach, especially for an officer with under five years' experience.



SUCCESS EXAMPLES

Bxcellence

B was referred to Bxcellence, a lived-experience mentor service for young people at risk of exploitation and serious youth violence. After losing a close friend, B struggled with trauma and grief, which increased his risk. The mentor used his own experience to build trust, support B in reducing risks like weapon carrying, and help him distance himself from negative peers. As a result, B's decision-making, family relationships, and mental health improved. With ongoing support, B secured an apprenticeship, is doing well, staying out of trouble, and hopes to become an electrician.

“ Things are the best they've ever been... There has been no trouble.

” Parents Feedback

Empire Fighting Chance

C engaged with Empire Fighting Chance, showing strong enthusiasm and commitment. He enjoyed boxing, which gave him purpose and helped him open up about his challenges. C set clear goals to return to education or find employment and was referred to the Box Careers programme for further support. Coaches observed significant progress, noting his adoption of a growth mindset and willingness to take ownership of his future.

“ the Box Champions programme by Empire Fighting Chance has been immensely beneficial for our young people, with clear improvements in teamwork, self-control, communication, and confidence

” School Feedback





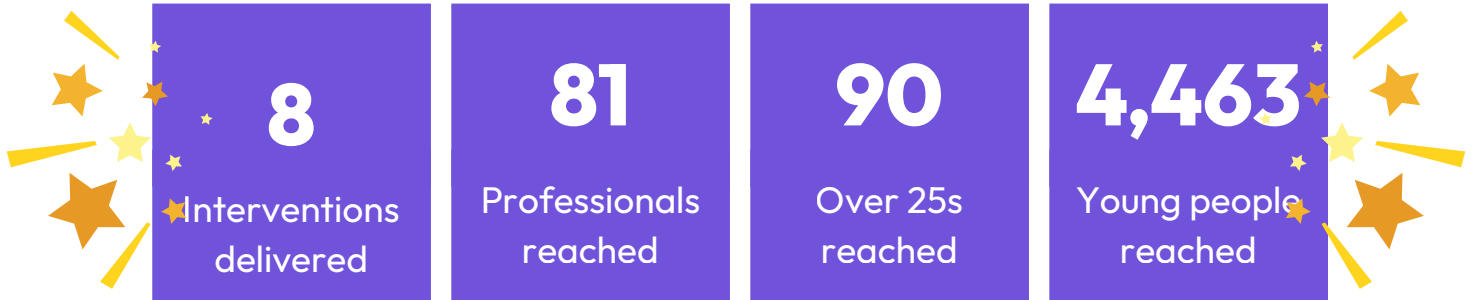
NORTH SOMERSET VRP

2024-2025

OVERVIEW

The North Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is a multi-agency group that aims to prevent and reduce violence in the area; working within the Safer Communities Service to understand and address the root causes of violence, carry out needs assessments with our partners to identify gaps in provision and practice to prevent further violent crimes from occurring in the future.

2024-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

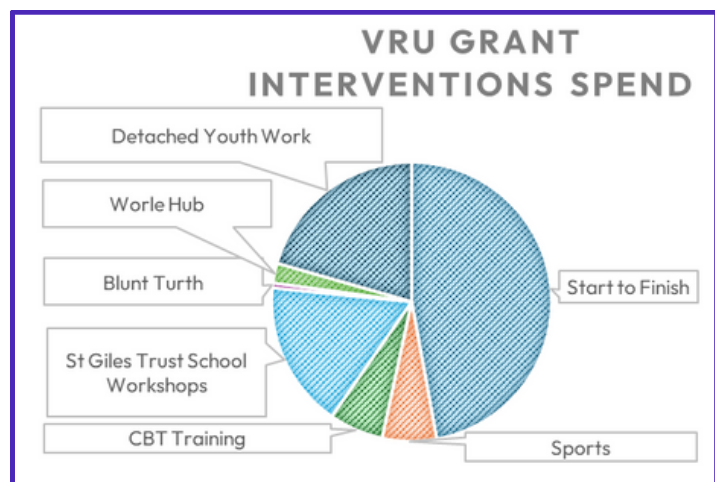


GRANT FUNDING

VRU GRANT

North Somerset VRP received a total of £136,178 from the VRU Grant. This was spent on staffing costs and 67% allocated to intervention activities (as shown in the chart).

This year, two new initiatives were launched: Detached Youth Work and the Worle Hub.



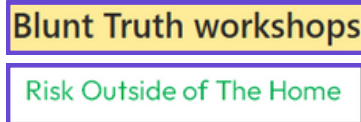
SV DUTY GRANT

North Somerset VRP received £21,942 from the Serious Violence Duty allocations, which was spent on projects including community engagement and data analysis.

NORTH SOMERSET VRP DELIVERY PARTNERS

North Somerset VRP works in collaboration with a range of partners and has commissioned different organisations to deliver targeted interventions for local young people. They include:

Click on the logo to be taken to their website.





NORTH SOMERSET VRP 2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS

START TO FINISH:

Provides wraparound support to young people (16-24). Support includes assistance with employment, housing, reducing criminal activity, substance misuse, and social skills.

The YEF toolkit has rated Focused Deterrence as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Thirty young people received support.

Outcomes included:

- Accessing accommodation,
- Engaging with health & wellbeing support,
- Accessing substance misuse support,
- Reconnecting with family & friends,
- Accessed financial support.



SPORTS DIVERSION:

This multi-sport weekly program is run by Weston Seagulls Community Trust, targeting young people in Weston town centre and nearby areas. They offer activities for two different age groups to engage local youth in positive, regular sports participation.

Overview of 2024-2025:

“The Dug Out” is a 12-month pilot youth program that launched in January 2025 and has so far worked with 57 young people. With an average of 15 attending weekly. Many participants were very football-focused, so activities were rotated to encourage everyone to try new things.

Successes included progress supporting children with additional needs, who became more engaged and confident, as well as home-schooled children who expanded their social networks.

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY (CBT):

This project provides identified young people with a variety of therapy (e.g. CBT, art, music, and play). These programs aim to boost engagement and confidence while helping reduce offending behaviours.

The YEF toolkit has rated Trauma Specific Therapy as having a high estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Thirty-four young people were referred and received therapy. This resulted in improved communication, confidence, and reduced offending.



BLUNT TRUTH:

Young people receive a sessions within their North Somerset secondary school. The sessions feature a short film, engaging open discussions. This project benefits from the support of the Army and Avon Fire and Rescue Service medics, who teach essential first aid skills. FEARLESS.org. branded merchandise is provided to reinforce the key message of reporting information anonymously.

Overview of 2024-2025:

Blunt Truth has reached 1,676 local Year 9 young people in schools, receiving positive feedback from both students and staff. Evaluation shows 70-88% of students are more likely to report knife crime after sessions. Branded goodies boost engagement and provided a reporting reminder to the young people who attended.





NORTH SOMERSET VRP

2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS



ST GILES TRUST:

St Giles Trust delivers awareness sessions in schools on county lines, gangs, drugs, and violence (excluding knife crime, covered by Blunt Truth). They also offer one session each for parents/carers and professionals to raise understanding and support around these issues.

Overview of 2024-2025:

St Giles Trust reached 1,450 young people and 65 professionals through their sessions. Some pupils who had received Blunt Truth also had a follow-up session to reinforce key messages and encourage further engagement.

THE YOUTH VOICE; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Young people and the wider community are brought together through various community engagement initiatives. From stands in secondary schools during term time, hosting community awareness events all year round to connecting with parents and carers. Community engagement creative opportunities for young people to share their perspectives. The aim is to ensure that youth voices contribute meaningfully to shaping strategic decisions.

Overview of 2024-2025

This year, 860 young people, 90 adults over 25, and 10 professionals through 3 community events and 8 school pop-up activities were delivered.

THE WORLE HUB:

North Somerset Council, North Somerset VRP, Children's Services, Off The Record, the Police Beat Team, Risk Outside The Home (ROTH), and Community Response (NSC) came together to establish a dedicated youth hub in a repurposed children's centre. The space was adapted to meet the needs of young people and provide a welcoming environment for youth activities. The hub initially ran weekly during the six-week summer holidays.

Overview of 2024-2025

A total of 185 young people attended engagement sessions at the repurposed Children's Centre. During the summer holidays activities included badge making, biscuit decorating, sessions with Avon Fire & Rescue, social media games, and engagement with the Community Response team and PCSOs. Two more sessions ran in October half term.

Wider North Somerset VRP 2024-2025 Annual Report

North Somerset VRP have produced their own annual report, showcasing not only their progress against core objectives but also highlighting the breadth of their wider work across the community. The report captures key achievements, partnerships, and initiatives that extend beyond their primary focus, reflecting their broader impact. This will be available on the ASVRP North Somerset web page.





NORTH SOMERSET VRP 2024-2025 KNIFE ANGEL



North Somerset VRP Project Officer,
Katie Williams & Violence Reduction
Interventions Manager, Clair Sandilands.

In May 2024, the impressive 27-foot-tall Knife Angel statue visited Weston-Super-Mare, drawing over 85,000 visitors to the Italian Gardens, including guests from across the UK and abroad. The Grand Pier supported the visit with its own ribbon tie installation on the boardwalk, offering the public a space to reflect and pay their respects.

The visit was accompanied by a month of coordinated action led by North Somerset's VRP and partner organisations. Activities included educational workshops, school assemblies, art projects, and community engagement days, raising awareness and encouraging conversations.

A dedicated team of 51 volunteers supported public engagement throughout the Knife Angel's visit, collectively contributing over 800 hours of service. The volunteer hub operated daily, welcoming visitors, capturing reflections and feedback, and helping to showcase the widespread impact of the statue's presence.

Educational outreach reached over 4,000 secondary school students through assemblies. Over 200 students participated in Blunt Truth sessions, which focused on the consequences of knife crime. Post-session feedback showed that 87% of students felt more likely to report someone carrying a weapon.



Knife Angel on display in the Italian Gardens.

Further outreach included a free online parent webinar on knife crime and County Lines, delivered in partnership with St Giles Trust and attended by over 60 parents and carers.

Public engagement extended through a community art trail in Weston town centre and daily spaces next to the statue for local organisations to showcase support services and diversionary activities, such as sports clubs and youth groups.

Community awareness days were also held across North Somerset to spread key messages and promote the Knife Angel's presence in Weston.

A dedicated Facebook page was launched to support the Knife Angel's visit to North Somerset, with posts shared over 400 times throughout May. Social media 'takeover' content was created in collaboration with key partners to amplify messaging and promote engagement. The visit attracted strong media interest, generating around 44 news stories and 15 radio segments. Coverage included national exposure on This Morning (29 May), interviews with BBC Radio Bristol, and features in outlets such as BBC Online, North Somerset Times, and Weston Mercury.

[Click here for more details on the Knife Angel.](#)





NORTH SOMERSET VRP

2024-2025 TMEC



In October 2024, North Somerset VRP led and funded the launch of the Teachable Moments Engagement Car (TMEC) initiative, a proactive approach to tackling youth-related antisocial behaviour (ASB) and violence across the community. Using an unmarked vehicle staffed by a Youth Worker and supported by a Community Response Officer, an Avon and Somerset Police Officer, or a PCSO, the project targeted young people at risk of offending or becoming victims of crime

TMEC operated through two key approaches:

- **Primary deployment:**
Responding swiftly to incidents to engage young people at critical moments.
- **Secondary deployment:**
Proactive patrols to build relationships and prevent escalation

Grounded in the “reachable or teachable moment” theory, TMEC successfully intervened at pivotal times when young people were most open to positive change. This approach not only reduced immediate risks but also connected individuals with constructive pathways and support.

Since its launch, TMEC engaged with 161 individuals or groups of young people, demonstrating its value as a highly targeted and responsive early-intervention tool. By operating twice weekly between 14:00 and 20:00, the project provided visible, consistent support within the community.

TMEC was delivered in partnership with North Somerset VRP, Community Response, Avon and Somerset Police (including Neighbourhood Policing Teams), and North Somerset Youth Justice, demonstrating a collaborative commitment to reducing harm, building trust, and creating safer communities for young people.

“

I’m so pleased that the Teachable Moments Engagement Car has made such a positive impact on our community since it first came onto our roads...Through the Teachable Moments Engagement Car, officers from the council and the police have also been able to engage with a wide range of young people and professionals...This initiative is a great way for the council and the police to work together and engage with young people, to help tackle anti-social behaviour.”

”

North Somerset Council Councillor/Executive member for Safety in the Community, James Clayton. January 2025.





BRISTOL VRP 2024-2025

OVERVIEW

Bristol Violence Reduction Partnership, which includes Safer Options, is a collaborative partnership of multiple agencies who work together to address Serious Youth Violence (SYV), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

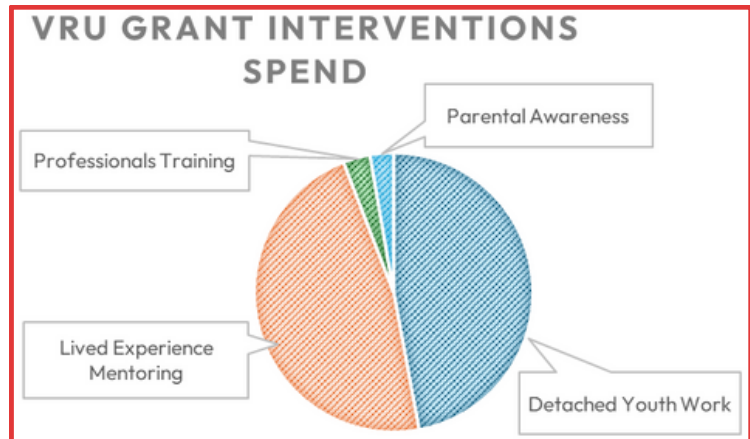
2024-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS



GRANT FUNDING

VRU GRANT

Bristol VRP received £112,503 from the VRU Fund, of which over 70% was allocated to and invested in interventions, building on the successful programs from the previous year. A breakdown is shown in the chart (right).



SV DUTY GRANT

Bristol VRP received a SV Duty grant of £21,942.80, which was allocated to labour costs and a targeted group work with 18-24-year-olds in prison, delivered by Growing Futures.

BRISTOL VRP DELIVERY PARTNERS

Bristol VRP works in collaboration with a range of partners and has commissioned five different organisations to deliver targeted interventions for local young people. They include:



Click on the logo to be taken to their website.





BRISTOL VRP

2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS

PARENTING SUPPORT GROUPS:

Parenting Support Groups offer help to parents and carers of children and young people who are involved in, or on the edge of, serious youth violence and exploitation. The support includes one-on-one guidance for parents, peer support to foster community networks that build safety, and the use of Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) strategies. Additionally, the groups assist families in putting protective measures in place for siblings. The overall goal is to empower families with practical tools and connections to create safer environments.

Overview of 2024-2025

Over the last financial year, 277 parents and carers took part in support groups. Working collaboratively to address community challenges, including concerns around safety and violence. The group encouraged greater parent participation, including increased involvement from fathers, which helped strengthen support networks. Despite changes in leadership, the group remained active by engaging in training sessions and community events to support families and the wider community.

DETACHED YOUTH WORK:

The Bristol Horn Youth Concern and partners outreach program was funded through the Bristol VRP. Operating in identified areas across the city where young people naturally gather. It aims to build relationships to support and encourage positive choices while raising awareness about the consequences of risky behaviours such drug use and anti-social activity. Activities include pop-ups, responses to serious incidents, and contributions to safeguarding assessments.

Overview of 2024-2025

Over the year, the detached youth work program engaged over 1,600 young people and 245 over 25s across Bristol.

Overview of 2024-2025 continued

Delivering activities like sports and workshops to promote positive choices and reduce antisocial behaviour. Despite challenges such as weather, the program strengthened community relationships and addressed safety issues. Key initiatives included targeted outreach by Bristol Horn Youth Concern and a successful girls' outreach at a central city located McDonald's, with strong partnerships supporting youth engagement, violence reduction, and community support.

1-2-1 COMMUNITY MENTORING:

This trauma-informed intervention offers tailored 1 to 1 support for young people, primarily boys and young men who are overrepresented in violence-related cohorts but underrepresented in support services. It aims to build trust, improve engagement, and reduce vulnerability through consistent, individualised mentoring and youth work.

The YEF toolkit has rated Mentoring as having a moderate estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025

Fifty young people have received tailored, trauma-informed mentoring, with a focus on boys and young men at risk of serious youth violence. Delivered by a range of community partners, including Growing Futures, Grassroots Communities, Horn Youth Concern, Impact Mentoring, Full Circle, Robin Foundation, NAOS Foundation, and Learning Partnership West, the support has improved confidence, wellbeing, and engagement. During the year we commenced work with the University of Bristol to evaluate the impact of this intervention and that evaluation work will continue in the coming year.





BRISTOL VRP

2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS

WEAPONS & DRUGS IN SCHOOLS:

Bristol VRP, Bristol City Council, and the Avon and Somerset Police Early Interventions Team work together to provide tailored support to schools. The program aims to divert young people involved with weapons or drugs from exclusion by addressing root causes early, promoting safer schools, and keeping young people engaged in education.

The YEF toolkit has rated Pre-Court Diversion as having a moderate estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025

Forty-one young people in Bristol received support through the Weapons & Drugs in Schools program, with a notable decline compared to the previous year. The initiative remains central to the city's response, helping schools keep children engaged and reduce exclusions linked to drugs and weapons. One recent case involved a student bringing a weapon to school; thanks to early intervention and multi-agency support, the child was diverted from criminal charges and safely reintegrated into school. The program continues to effectively manage risks and support vulnerable young people.

PROJECT HOPE: MINDSET

This year saw the launch of a pilot of targeted workshops in prisons for offenders aged 18-24, focusing on identity, relationships, empowerment, practical skills, financial literacy, and social reintegration. The sessions address how these areas relate to exploitation, serious youth violence, and criminal activity. Workshops to support positive change and reduce reoffending.

Overview of 2024-2025

Launched in October 2024, this mindset programme was delivered by new organisation BXcellence in partnership with Safer Options and HMP Bristol. Together they provided targeted support to 17 young offenders.

EDUCATION INCLUSION INTERVENTION:

This intervention focuses on promoting inclusive education. It offers advocacy within educational settings, supporting both parents and children through the delivery of specialized educational resources, training for teaching staff, and advice.

The YEF toolkit has rated Interventions to Prevent School Exclusion as having a low estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025

This intervention supported 690 young people and 340 professionals. Education Inclusion Managers attend safeguarding meetings, provide weekly support to colleagues, and worked closely with schools on safety planning.

“Your team has a completely different skillset and knowledge base to what we have, so it's reassuring to know you're there! I know the staff team have also really benefited from training sessions.”

” Headteacher, Mr. Carter





BRISTOL VRP

2024-2025 INTERVENTIONS

GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK:

This program supports girls and young women build their resilience, confidence, and understanding of healthy relationships while preventing exploitation. Delivered in schools across 12-weeks delivered in partnership with Growing Futures, Hopes Place, and the Early Intervention Team to empower young females.

The YEF toolkit has rated Relationship Violence Prevention Lessons and Social Skills Training as having a moderate estimated rate of impact on violent crime.

Overview of 2024-2025

Seventy-one young people were supported across several groups, many facing challenges like anxiety, low self-esteem, and school attendance issues. The groups helped build confidence, friendships, and social skills through activities and safe spaces for expression. Despite some logistical challenges and sensitive topics (such as body image, safety, and equality), the young women engaged well, including participating in a youth conference.

Five girls attend regularly, with new friendship developed. At the end of the final session, the girls agreed they were glad they came because they have new friends, they said " We have found our people."

Positive Feedback

“

The Hope's Place group is the only reason I come in on a Friday.

”

Student Feedback

“

It's nice to express my feelings because it eases my stress.

”

Student Feedback





BRISTOL VRP

2024-2025 PARENT SUPPORT

BUILDING TRUST, CHANGING OUTCOMES

Over the past year, Bristol VRP (part of Safer Options) has worked closely with parenting groups across the city to build trusted relationships, raise awareness around child exploitation, and support parents in protecting their children from harm. These community-based sessions have become a vital gateway for early intervention and meaningful support.

CASE STUDY:

At one such session, a mother approached the team, concerned about her 12-year-old daughter who was struggling at school and displaying signs of distress. The family had faced a number of traumatic experiences. The child had been a victim of online sexual exploitation from the age of eight, with multiple disruptions in service provision, and had recently witnessed a violent stabbing in central Bristol that left another young person with life-changing injuries.

The team responded with care and urgency. Outcomes included:

- Supporting the young person in accessing counselling services.
- Referring the young person to local, positive activities to build healthier relationships.
- Providing the mother with information on the risks associated with online exploitation.
- Raising the case at a multi-agency Safer Options meeting to coordinate wider support.
- Advocating for additional help in school and initiating an educational needs assessment.
- Reducing stigma around statutory services, helping the family feel safe to engage and ask for support.

As a result of this intervention, the family was referred to Families in Focus (FIF) and allocated a dedicated support worker. Over the following six months, the worker helped the family access mental health support, worked with the school to address the child's needs, and supported the process for ADHD and autism assessment as well as an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

“

Thank You for the referral you did for my daughter and I...Although there are still a few hurdles for our family I feel that the support that my daughter have received have left us better equipped to deal with these situations...the work has come from myself and my daughter to be in a better place but if the referral hadn't been done and we'd not received this support I am afraid of where my daughter would be now because I was ready to give up!

”

Mother



Stock image.

This case highlights the impact of early intervention, trust-building, and multi-agency collaboration. It is a testament to how, with the right support, even the most vulnerable families can be empowered to overcome adversity and begin to heal.





Avon & Somerset

**Violence
Reduction
Partnership**

**Our
Partners**

Child Critical Incident Toolkit

Throughout 2023 and the majority of 2024, the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (ASVRP) convened the five local authorities, Violence Reduction Partnership Coordinators, Youth Justice, and Children's Social Care to co-develop a Child Critical Incident Toolkit. This toolkit is designed to prepare and support professionals in responding to critical incidents involving the death or serious injury of a child outside the home. It draws on collective knowledge, lived experience, and the important lessons learned following the tragic loss of children in the region.

The partnership worked closely with Health and Education colleagues to ensure the toolkit is both comprehensive and fully aligned with wider safeguarding principles.

The outcome is a unified, multi-agency framework that supports professionals in delivering child-centred, trauma-informed, and coordinated responses to critical incidents. Its development reflects a strong, shared commitment to strengthening safeguarding practices and protecting the most vulnerable children in local communities.

The toolkit enables partner organisations to map existing processes, identify key stakeholders, and assess available resources to ensure preparedness in the event of a critical incident. It aims to support a well-informed and cohesive response when serious incidents occur.

The Child Critical Incident Toolkit is available to all partners via the [ASVRP website](#).

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who contributed to the development of this vital resource.





HOME OFFICE HOTSPOT ACTION FUND ACTIVITIES



In 2024/25, the Home Office merged the Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Response Fund and the Grip Serious Violence Hotspot Policing Fund, both of which targeted overlapping hotspot areas. This funding is commissioned through the OPCC and has resulted in thousands of additional patrol hours each month, boosting community safety and positively impacting neighbourhoods affected by anti-social behaviour and serious violence.

Avon and Somerset Police delivered Operation Habit and Operation Hold patrols, providing 10,310 hours of patrols in designated areas resulting in 174 interventions to address anti-social behaviour, alongside numerous community initiatives tailored to local concerns.

The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) works alongside police and other partners to understand established target areas, address the root causes of serious violence, support communities, and deliver preventative educational interventions across Avon and Somerset. This work incorporates the established hotspot areas where appropriate. Together, this coordinated approach ensures a comprehensive strategy to make these areas safer and reduce violence.

While the statistics demonstrate operational success, the true impact also lies in increased police visibility and stronger community engagement, both essential to building public trust and confidence.

During 2024-25, Wesport partnered with 16 organisations to deliver a diverse range of interventions for young people, supported by the OPCC through the Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund. This fund aimed to reduce violence, crime, and anti-social behaviour by using sport and physical activity to positively engage young people up to the age of 25.

The programme embraced a broad definition of sport, including traditional, informal, and community-based physical activities, designed to meet the varying needs of local young people.

As a result:

- 323 sessions were delivered.
- 657 young people actively engaged.

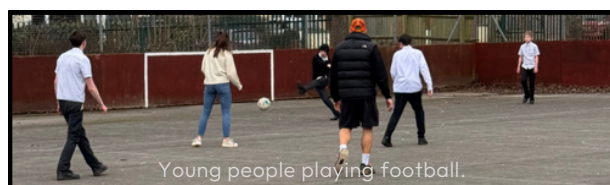
Through this collaborative effort, Wesport and the OPCC demonstrated how sport can be a powerful vehicle for crime prevention and for supporting young people to build more positive futures.

EXAMPLE

BATH CITY FC FOUNDATION:

The Foundation engaged 90 young people aged 12-16 across five schools.

Sessions, supported by sports activities, built relationships, resilience, leadership, and teamwork while covering topics such as choices and consequences, knife crime, county lines, racism, women in sport, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, and more.



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 Probation Delivery Units (PDU) that cover the Avon and Somerset geographically; Bristol and South Gloucestershire, Bath and North Somerset and Somerset.

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 Programmes and Structured Interventions we aim to make placements and programmes 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 & Education, Accommodation and Personal Wellbeing and Women's Services.

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

ACHIEVEMENTS 2024-2025

- **Somerset:** We are engaging with Safer Somerset Priorities Meetings (SSPM)—multi-agency forums addressing complex or escalated cases involving both adults and children. We aim to join these meetings to share insights, make referrals, and support efforts to reduce harm across the county.
- **Bristol & South Gloucestershire:** We are contributing to a workstream under the Bristol Preventing Serious Violence Partnership to improve early identification of 18–25 year olds at risk of exploitation or serious violence, increasing access to preventative interventions.
- **Harm Outside the Home:** We are supporting the development of an 18–25s operational pathways meeting and working with Detached Youth Workers to collect data and improve responses for this age group.

OVERVIEW

Southside is a domestic abuse and family support charity working across Bath and North East Somerset. We offer trauma-informed, practical, and emotional support to individuals and families, focusing on early intervention, domestic abuse recovery, and community-led change.

With funding from the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (ASVRP), Southside developed a Lived Experience Mentoring Scheme for children and young people affected by or at risk of serious violence and exploitation. The ASVRP partnership enabled us to recruit and train mentors with lived experience of trauma and violence, using tools such as Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) to build trust and positive engagement with young people.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2024 - 2025

Mentoring support and impact

- Nine boys were supported through the pilot, including three with ADHD and several with significant social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- All were at risk of exploitation and/or serious violence; some were already involved. Common themes included trauma, domestic abuse, self-harm, and the use of racist or offensive language.
- Mentors became trusted adults in these young people's lives, supporting them to return to school, manage conflict, reconnect with family, and explore future goals.
- One mentee commented: "You get me. When I talk to you, I don't have to explain everything, I don't feel like you judge me."

Activities and connection

- A group trip to Centre Parcs with families created safe, positive shared experiences, helping build emotional connection and resilience.
- Feedback showed that young people valued time away, the opportunity to try new activities, and the chance to bond with their families.

CASE STUDY

John began one-to-one mentoring with a Southside mentor, building a trusting relationship at his own pace. This gave him a safe space to talk, boosting his confidence, self-esteem, emotional regulation, and understanding of himself. He also began to open up about his family and cultural background, feeling more seen and supported.

As trust grew, John disclosed a serious risk of exploitation involving financial intimidation. With his mentor's support, he shared this with his father, and together they reported it to the police, ensuring John felt safe throughout.

By the end of the sessions, John had returned to full-time education with no further exclusions and was doing well academically. He had a stronger awareness of risk, was more able to seek help, and was making safer choices. The mentoring ended positively, with John expressing genuine gratitude.

This partnership with the ASVRP has been instrumental in making the mentoring scheme possible. Together, we are demonstrating the power of relationship-based support, lived experience, and early intervention in changing the lives of vulnerable young people at risk of serious violence.



Delivering Bleed Kits To Communities Across Avon and Somerset

Supported By...



NHS



HeartSafe®
Saving Lives In The Community



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

AVON AND SOMERSET BLEED KIT PARTNERSHIP

Avon and Somerset Police joined up with HeartSafe and NHS England South West 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, such as from traffic accidents, falls, stabbings, animal bites, or other injuries. 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.

In addition to the bleedkits, there are 40 publicly accessible knife surrender bins now located across Avon and Somerset outside local police stations and in public community spaces. An average of 1,000 knives and bladed articles are surrendered each month.

In January 2025, the South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust (SWASFT) added the bleed kit locations to their live

mapping system to improve first-aid response when 999 is dialled. **This is the first time an ambulance service has adopted bleed kits in the UK.**

The partnership celebrated the launch of a heartfelt Partnership with Mikey's World, honouring the memory of 16-year-old Mikey Roynon, who tragically lost his life to knife violence last June. Mikey's World, founded by his brave mum Hayley, joined the Avon and Somerset Bleed Kit Partnership to fund emergency bleed kits in Bristol. The first of these was installed outside The Cossham Inn in Kingswood, where Mikey's family live.

Emma Williams, a resident of Bath, started a GOFUNDME page because she wanted to do something positive for her community surrounding knife crime. Over £20,000 later she has funded over 65 bleed kits for the Bath and surrounding area!



BLEED KIT PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS



Launched in

2022

by Avon and Somerset Police and HeartSafe UK



1st

of its kind in the UK



Over

660

bleed kits installed across Avon and Somerset communities



Instantly accessible

24/7

for use in an emergency





Attendees of the launch event.

SCHOOL YEAR 6 KNIFE CRIME EDUCATION SCENARIO

Earlier this year, the partnership launched a brand-new knife crime education initiative at the Lifeskills centre in Bristol. This new scenario will teach Year 6 students about the dangers of carrying knives as they prepare for the important transition into secondary school. None of this would have been possible without the incredible collaboration with Avon Metals, to take surrendered weapons and knives that are placed in one of Avon and Somerset Police surrender bins, smelting them down and transforming them from metal into money to fund this new vital educational resource.

By turning weapons into life-saving tools and knowledge, this partnership is making our communities safer and empowering our children to make smart choices.

In March 2025, the new knife crime scenario was added to the centre, alongside existing scenarios such as the one on county lines. During the launch event, they also celebrated everyone who has come together through our partnership, which has distributed hundreds of emergency bleed kits across the region to save lives in trauma situations.

LOOKING AHEAD

The partnership are working with Bridgwater & Taunton College and SWASFT to create a series of online training videos that will demonstrate how the bleed kit can be accessed and used in real-time. The scripts have been written according to 999 call handler scripts and are real instructions that would be given in an emergency. This resource will be made available to teach children as young as 10 through to communities and online training.

Special thanks to:





Avon & Somerset

Violence Reduction Partnership

2024-2025
**Annual
Report**