



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER



VRP Violence
Reduction
Partnership
Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership

Serious Violence Response Strategy 2022-25

Refresh - April 2024

Foreword

Our partner agencies across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire share a clear commitment to preventing crime and protecting people from harm - prioritising the issues that we know are causing the greatest harm to our communities – including serious violence, domestic and sexual abuse. This strategy and the partnership commitment build upon the aspirations set out in my Police and Crime Plan ‘Make Notts Safe’ to deliver direct action to address serious violence at its roots through an early intervention and preventive approach.

Now in its sixth year, the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership continues to drive improvement - bringing together partners as part of a ‘public health approach’ to tackle the causes of serious violence, help break the cycle of victimisation and offending in our communities and create a safe and strong Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for all.

I am honoured to lead a strong violence reduction partnership that puts community and youth voice at its heart. No single agency can make the change required to reduce the impact of serious violence and exploitation in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. I believe that violence is preventable, and the work that we will undertake collaboratively will support our children and young people to live safe and happy lives, free from violence and the fear of violence.

Since its inception in 2019, the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership (NNVRP) has made great strides in developing a cohesive, multi-agency approach to preventing and reducing both the causes of and the impact of violence in our communities. Our work as a partnership, alongside a robust approach to enforcement by Nottinghamshire Police, has contributed to a significant reduction in serious violence in the area.

The new partnership approach to violence reduction and interventions funded by the NNVRP are giving children and young people the tools they need to make positive choices, and we are already seeing the difference this support can have on their lives. There are many stories of success, and many young people are now on a completely different course thanks to a host of intervention programmes.

Whilst I am proud of what we have achieved as a partnership and the journey to date, working hand in hand with communities to make Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire a safer place to be, I am also cognisant of the challenge that lies ahead, particularly in respect of sustainability of work to date undertaken by the partnership, and ensuring the basis of strong evaluation – understanding what work within the local context, ensuring we maximise the work, impact and legacy.

The Serious Violence Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is part of the Government’s broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence. It builds upon the work already happening in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, the key strands being a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The duty also requires the responsible authorities to consult education, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their serious violence strategy.

As system leaders, the NNVRP will work with and for our communities to create a system which is responsive to these challenges. We will strive toward our ambition to become a trauma-informed City and County and implement our youth work programme to improve outcomes for children and young people and support them in reaching their full potential.

As we enter our sixth year of delivery, we are in an excellent position to lead this change, embracing the legislative changes in the form of the Serious Violence Duty to further strengthen our partnership approach, and to continue to work toward a safer Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

Caroline Henry
Police and Crime Commissioner & Chair of the Strategic Violence Reduction Board

Signatories

This Strategy has been approved and signed by the following authorities, as defined in the Home Office guidance for the Serious Violence Duty.

Authority	Role/ Representative	Name	Signature
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	<i>Police and Crime Commissioner</i>	<i>Caroline Henry</i>	
Nottinghamshire Police	<i>Chief Constable</i>	<i>Kate Meynell</i>	
Nottingham City Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Mel Barrett</i>	
Nottinghamshire County Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Adrian Smith</i>	
Ashfield District Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Theresa Hodgkinson</i>	
Bassetlaw District Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>David Armiger</i>	
Broxtowe Borough Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Ruth Hyde</i>	
Gedling Borough Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Mike Hill</i>	
Mansfield District Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Adam Hill</i>	
Newark and Sherwood District Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>John Robinson</i>	
Rushcliffe Borough Council	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Kath Marriott</i>	
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service	<i>Assistant Chief Fire Officer</i>	<i>Damien West</i>	
Nottingham City Probation Service	<i>Head of Service</i>	<i>Kat Johnson</i>	
Nottinghamshire County Probation Service	<i>Head of Service</i>	<i>Saika Jabeen</i>	
Local authority – Children’s Services, YJS, Education (Nottinghamshire County)	<i>Corporate Director for Children and Families</i>	<i>Colin Pettigrew</i>	

Local authority – Children’s Services, YJS, Education (Nottingham City)	<i>Corporate Director for People</i>	<i>Catherine Underwood</i>	
Local authority – Public Health (Nottinghamshire County)	<i>Director of Public Health</i>	<i>Jonathan Gribbin</i>	
Local authority – Public Health (Nottingham City)	<i>Director of Public Health</i>	<i>Lucy Hubber</i>	
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>Amanda Sullivan</i>	
Nottingham City College	<i>Deputy Principal</i>	<i>Mohammed Ramzan</i>	
Vision West Nottinghamshire College	<i>Principal and CEO</i>	<i>Andrew Cropley</i>	
HMP Nottingham on behalf of HM Prison Service	<i>Head of Drug Strategy</i>	<i>Pauline Womack</i>	
Nottingham Community Safety Partnership	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Lord Vernon Coaker</i>	
Safer Nottinghamshire Board	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Adrian Smith</i>	

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Introduction

On 9th April 2018, the government published its Serious Violence Strategy¹ setting out an ambitious programme of work to respond to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide. The Strategy is underpinned by a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, with a focus on early intervention and prevention, tackling the root causes of violence and preventing young people from becoming involved in crime in the first place.

The Serious Violence Duty commenced on 31 January 2023 as part of the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The duty was introduced in the context of an increase in violence over the last decade and a recognition of the impact it has on victims and their families. The guidance to the Serious Violence Duty suggests that the government is aiming to strike a balance between ensuring “agencies are focussed on their activity to reduce serious violence whilst also providing sufficient flexibility so that the relevant organisations will engage and work together in the most effective local partnership for any given area”.

The Serious Violence Duty requires police, youth justice, health, local authorities, housing, education and fire and rescue to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The duty also requires the responsible authorities to consult education, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their serious violence strategy.

This Strategy provides a framework for preventing and reducing serious violence informed and underpinned by a clear evidence base and a trauma informed approach. The Strategy supports the ‘Make Notts Safe’, Police and Crime Plan, an ambitious plan to tackle crime and has the needs of victims and communities at its heart. The Plan outlines a commitment to investing in prevention and early intervention activities that deals with the causes, rather than the consequences, of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

During 2023/24, each of the Community Safety Partnerships have developed local response plans which outline the multi-agency response that will be taken to prevent and reduce serious violence in the local area. The plans are responsive to need in their specific geographical area, having been informed by local area profiles (police and health data) and consultation with communities, specifically young people, to shape local priorities and activity for the year ahead. The plans are aligned to this Strategy, they mirror the public health approach and principles, and will be monitored formally on a quarterly basis alongside the activity outlined in this document.

The lifespan of the Strategy is three years – 2022-2025, in line with the provisional allocation of Home Office funding, and is subject to an annual review to ensure it continues to be responsive to national policy, the local evidence base and emerging insight. The Strategy builds on the ambitions and priorities outlined in our 2019-2021 Response Strategy.

Our Vision, Mission and Focus

The NNVRP brings together specialists from the PCC, public health, clinical commissioning, police, local authorities, community safety partnerships, criminal justice partnerships, education, and voluntary and community sector organisations with a shared goal to reduce serious violent crime and the underlying causes countywide. It provides strategic leadership and coordination of the countywide response to preventing and reducing serious violence.

Our Vision:

Our vision is for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire communities to feel safe from violence and the fear of violence.

Our Mission:

We will work with communities to prevent violence and reduce its harmful impacts through developing a detailed understanding of its causes and investment in evidence-based interventions that make a lasting difference.

Our Focus:

Our definition of Serious Violence recognises the complexity of violence, with a focus on all incidents (including domestic violence) that cause serious harm. It also focuses on other offending that drives violence, so currently includes organised criminality and child exploitation.

Our Approach

Violence is a public health issue. Living without fear of violence and its impacts is a fundamental requirement for the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Public health principles provide a valuable framework for investigating and understanding the causes and consequences of violence and can help to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

We have adopted five core principles, which underpin this approach. We will:

- **Focus on what will make a difference to whole populations**, communities and groups, recognising that different communities, and groups within communities, may have different needs.
- **Work as a whole system**, and in partnership, rather than as individual agencies, organisations, services or professionals. We are committed to working in partnership with and for our communities to collaborate and coproduce solutions.
- **Intervene early to prevent issues emerging**. We believe that ‘prevention is better than cure’. Intervening early builds resilience reduces the impact of adversity and changes community norms through education or policy change, which can prevent issues emerging.
- **Consider the ‘causes of the causes’**. We look beyond the presenting issue to the wider context and use research and evidence that helps us understand why people behave the way they do, what contributes to this behaviour and where inequalities and inequities may exist.
- **Ensure our work is evidence-informed**. Our interventions are driven by data and intelligence; we will contribute to the evidence-base and seek to create a new evidence-base.

Taking a public health approach to violence is not new. In 1996 the World Health Organisation (WHO) developed a 4-step process for implementing a public health approach to violence, see figure 1.

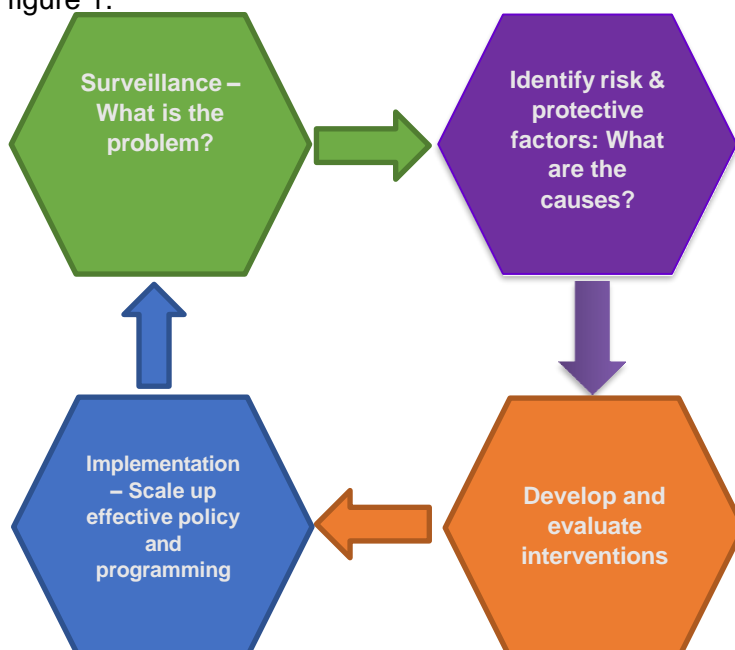


Fig. 1 The WHO 4-Step process

The public health approach seeks to improve health and safety for all individuals in a population by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individuals will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.

Figure 2 outlines the risk factors and the protective factors which mitigate against violence. By working to mitigate the risk factors, and to build the protective factors, we are able to prevent multiple forms of violence.

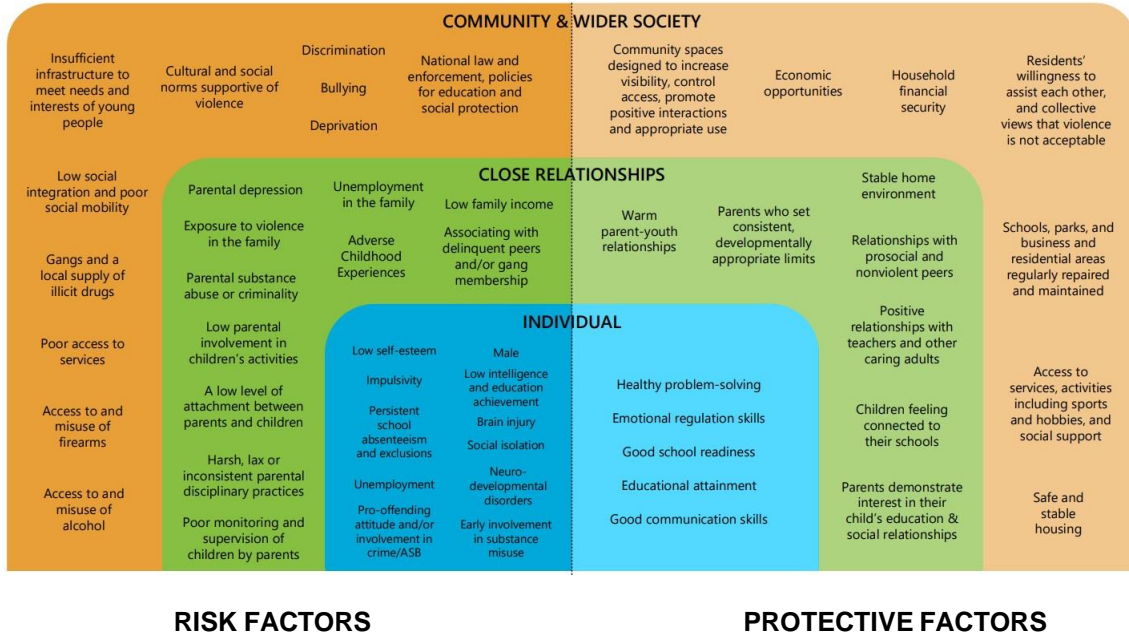


Fig. 2 Risk and protective factors at an individual, relationship and societal level which may cause children and young people to be impacted by serious violence and the protective factors which may mitigate against the identified risks.

To prevent violence, it is necessary to act across multiple levels at the same time; factors at one level can influence factors at another level. This approach is more likely to sustain prevention efforts over time and achieve population-level impact.

The NNVRP uses the WHO Social-Ecological Model, as shown in figure 3, which considers the complexity between individual, relationship, community and societal factors. It considers violence as an outcome of interaction among many risk factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal level.

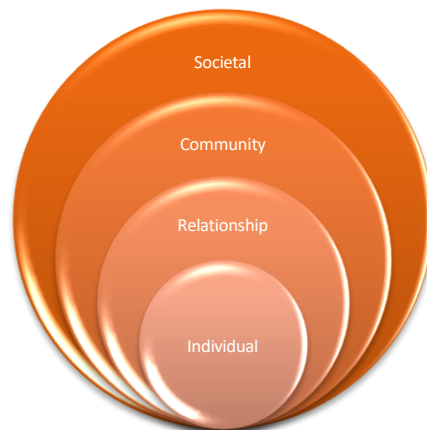


Fig 3. WHO Social-Ecological Model

Prevention strategies at each level may include:

Individual	Promoting attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that prevent violence, including educational interventions, social-emotional learning and healthy relationship programmes
Relationship	Parenting or family-focused prevention programmes, mentoring programmes and programmes which seek to strengthen parent-child communication, promote positive peer norms, problem solving skills and health relationships.
Community	Improving the physical or social environment, e.g., by creating safe places where people live, learn, work and play, as well as addressing other conditions that give rise to violence in communities, e.g., neighbourhood poverty and instability.
Societal	Addressing economic or social inequalities, promoting societal norms that protect against violence, providing education and employment opportunities and policies that affect the structural determinants of health.

Community consensus

We have adopted Public Health England (PHE) ‘5Cs’ approach to guide how we will harness the power of partners and local communities to create positive community norms and tackle the causes of violent crime as part of a whole system approach, see figure 4.



Fig 4. 5Cs framework, PHE 2019

Collaboration	We bring partners together from a broad range of functions who have the shared goal of tackling serious violence.
Co-production	Partners, communities and young people participate in informing our approach.
Co-operation	We work with partners to overcome barriers to effective data and information sharing.
Counter-narrative	We promote positive alternatives for young people.
Community consensus	We aim to empower communities to actively participate in tackling the issues that affect them.

Data and Insight

The Strategy draws on findings and recommendations from the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), which provides a comprehensive analysis of serious violence, and the context and complexity in which violence arises across the VRP area. The full SNA can be accessed at www.nottsvru.co.uk

12% reduction in police recorded serious violence, 17% reduction in ambulance callouts to violent events and 9% reduction in inpatient admissions for violent events in the most recent 12 months.

19% increase in possession of weapon offences which is likely affected by proactive policing. although there is an emerging risk of increased accessibility to a growing market of weapons online.

Homicide rates have stayed stable despite the attacks of June 2023. Recent homicides have shown a furtherance of domestic links, young persons as offenders and public place violence.

Reductions in ABH, GBH and sexual assault were seen between 6% and 16%.

Small increases in knife-enabled offences of threats to kill and robbery, and rape offences were seen although it is noted that these were marginal volumes.

The age of young people being exploited for in Nottinghamshire is getting younger, with 13- and 15-year-olds becoming more common within the County Lines trade.

Demographic, Geographic and Temporal trends

The age profile for perpetrators of sexual assault shifts to a much younger age, specifically amongst 12- and 15-year-old boys, and over a third of all sexual assault victims were females under 18.

The primary geographic concentrations for serious violence remain in City Centre and Mansfield night-time economies, although these areas have shown marked decreases (-23%) compared to the previous year.

The volume of violent knife crime occurring in dwellings has increased, whilst public place knife crime has decreased and, in the most recent 12 months, more knife crime occurred in dwellings than on the street.

People from Asian backgrounds remain disproportionately represented as victims of knife-enabled robbery and represented no known perpetrator ethnicity in the offender cohort for this offence.

Contextual data and risk factors

There remain to be significant disparities affecting Nottingham City with high rates of permanent exclusion, lower levels of childhood development, and lower educational attainment particularly affecting boys.

Rising financial hardship compounded by the cost of living remains a significant factor associated with increased risk of violent crime, particularly exploitation and domestic abuse.

Children most at risk of going missing in Nottinghamshire were 12- to 14-year-old girls, followed by boys also in this age group. 5% of missing individuals accounted for a third of all missing episodes in the reporting period.

The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Nottinghamshire has increased by 64% in 2023 compared to 2022, most significantly in the County. This cohort are at increased risk of exploitation, namely forced labour.

Increases in grooming as a component of CSE, and increases in indecent image possession, reflect the turbulent and rapidly evolving risk of the online space and exploitation.

The increased accessibility towards weapons is an intelligence gap that requires more research, specifically the use of knives in domestic settings.

Our Priorities

To deliver our strategy, we will work as a multi-agency partnership to deliver three priority areas:

1. **Provide inclusive system leadership** by collaborating with partners in the local safeguarding and community safety partnerships, including the third sector and the community, to drive system change required to prevent serious violence in the long term
2. **Make best use of data sharing, insight and evidence** by using multi-agency data, insight and evidence to improve our understanding of the nature and causes of violence locally to shape our system wide response
3. **Deliver and evaluate early intervention and prevention activity**, by co-designing, implementing and evaluating evidence-informed interventions that address causes of serious violence and strengthen protective factors, whilst contributing to the local and national evidence base

1. Provide inclusive system leadership

No issue relating to violence has a single cause or single solution. A collaborative approach which brings together multiple agencies and cross sector working is necessary to understand the causes, the nature and the prevalence of violence in the area and to provide a collective response which impacts across the whole system.

This priority seeks to build on the strength of the existing partnership with a renewed energy, focus and resources being directed toward key objectives over the lifetime of this strategy.

Please note, through this and subsequent sections, new or refreshed activity for 2024/25 has been highlighted with an orange tick.

Lead on the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty on behalf of specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

We will:

- ✓ Convene a data steering group to consider arrangements for data sharing, the process for developing joint analytical products, including the SNA 2024/25
- ✓ Review the terms of reference for the Strategic Violence Reduction Board and clearly define the framework of requirements and responsibilities in delivering a long-term sustainable approach to serious violence reduction.
- ✓ Further clarify the scope and definition of serious violence to better differentiate between the precursors, risk factors and consequences of serious violence and take account of the changing crime profile, informed by the crime harm index and other relevant insight.
- ✓ Maximize opportunities for sharing relevant data between partners to improve the local understanding of violence and the risk and protective factors which can lead to violence and or exploitation, including improved data quality and opportunities to exploit big data and predictive analytics for serious violence.

Develop and implement a Trauma-informed Strategy to embed trauma-informed approaches within services across the partnership to improve outcomes, including mental health.

We will:

- ✓ Map evidence-based trauma-focused interventions and treatments and highlight good practice
- ✓ Ensure there is visibility and ongoing system-level commitment to trauma-informed practice using the Reducing Serious Violence Board as a forum for disseminating good practice and addressing any barriers to change
- ✓ Co-produce the delivery plan for the partnership wide Trauma-informed Strategy
- ✓ Support organisations within the partnership to develop and implement internal plans in line with their readiness assessments
- ✓ Develop a training needs analysis and workforce development and support framework

Co-design and deliver a Youth Work Strategy to ensure consistently high-quality youth services.

We will:

- ✓ Implement the co-produced marketing strategy and training programme to ensure that all providers in youth diversion understand and commit to the principles set out in our Youth Charter
- ✓ Implement the co-produced Training Pathways Framework to ensure equity of access to quality training and workforce development opportunities
- ✓ Implement the Quality Endorsement Framework to provide a structure against which practitioners and organisations can map their development and evidence good practice with a peer led audit process

Co-design and deliver a strength-based youth and community participation model to empower communities and achieve community consensus in our systemwide approach

We will:

- ✓ Increase opportunities for co-production with children and young people, particularly those who have lived experience of the criminal justice system and/or have been impacted by serious violence
- ✓ Increase engagement with County VCS partners, faith communities and new and emerging communities to ensure inclusion with a wide range of perceptions and experiences, as well as improving reach across the NNVRP area
- ✓ Implement agreed reforms to the Community Ambassador Programme to increase engagement, an opportunity for enhanced partnership working and a sustainable legacy for the VRP

Support systems change opportunities in collaboration with the education sector to enable early identification of young people at risk of being impacted by serious violence.

We will:

- ✓ Work in partnership with experts in Education and wider partners to develop, influence and share inclusive educational approaches that will support prevention of violence
- ✓ Gain further insight into the impact of school absence, exclusion, and inclusion in the VRP area, identify and share best practice and support system change
- ✓ Strengthen links between education and community and voluntary organisations to further embed a contextual safeguarding approach, ensuring education have access to the right information, advice and support
- ✓ Make best use of data to implement a targeted approach to interventions and support provided to educational settings by Nottinghamshire Police and funded organisations

Develop and implement a sustainability plan to guide economic and cultural sustainability of VRP approaches

We will:

- ✓ Work across the partnership through the Strategic Violence Reduction Board to further develop their strategic overview required to meet the Serious Violence Duty as well as exploring the challenges and further opportunities to build a sustainable and tangible partnership approach around a shared vision for serious violence.
- ✓ Co-design and implement our sustainability plan, informed by a self-assessment against the sustainability framework
- ✓ Undertake a training needs analysis for VRP staff to ensure a core-level of training which is responsive to need

2. Make best use of data sharing, insight and evidence

Effective data sharing provides the partnership with a shared evidence base on which key decisions can be made and a collective response developed. We will work in collaboration with partners to ensure we continue to be responsive to the developing picture of serious violence.

Develop and implement a three-year plan to improve the quality and accessibility of data across the partnership to improve our understanding of the nature of violence.

We will:

- ✓ Continue to convene the Serious Violence Data steering group to lead on the development of shared data insights and data products across the partnership, in line with requirements for the Serious Violence Duty
- ✓ Inform the design, build and launch of a shared data dashboard across partners to improve visibility and shared understanding.
- ✓ Ensure quality of datasets, including completeness of ethnicity data recording across partners, and working with local emergency departments to improve the usefulness of the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence dataset.
- ✓ Ensure the data and insight workstream is aligned with, supports, and informs other key workstreams in the VRP including the schools and youth work

Identify evidence gaps and commission research that strengthens the voice of communities, young people and those with lived experience to shape our response

We will:

- ✓ Work with academic partners to develop PhD opportunities to ensure a higher level research agenda locally, with a focus on local priority topics of disproportionality, and of community understanding of the use of big data, artificial intelligence and predictive modelling.
- ✓ Systematically integrate our local quantitative data and qualitative data to demonstrate how evidence from lived experience and community insights is being incorporated to build our understanding and inform our priorities
- ✓ Explore the comparatively high rate of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system for children (aged 10 to 17), including factors such as societal, policy or practice drivers
- ✓ Undertake research to gain insight into adultification in the online space, and how this may affect patterns of risk and harm around young people, particularly with sexual exploitation, county lines and consent between children
- ✓ Work collaboratively with Nottingham Integrated Care Partnership's Severe Multiple Disadvantage (SMD) Data Partnership to plan, understand, integrate and embed the needs of people experiencing SMD to enable improved engagement and service provision.
- ✓ Continue to track changes in legislation around the growing market of weapons and their accessibility online in light of the observed increases in weapon importation.

3. Deliver and evaluate early intervention and prevention activity

To ensure commissioned interventions continue to be effective we must ensure that we are responsive to the experiences of children and young people, that they are provided by skilled practitioners and organisations, that they are based in evidence.

Ensure interventions are responsive to and contribute to the national evidence base of what works to prevent and reduce serious violence

We will:

- ✓ Utilise the available evidence base to contribute to the development of a NNVRP interventions matrix which will assess interventions against key strategic drivers, including impact, reach, cost and risk.
- ✓ Develop and implement an evaluation framework across all NNVRP interventions
- ✓ Contribute our evaluations to the Youth Endowment Fund's online evidence base.
- ✓ Ringfence funding for the design and implementation of robust, independent evaluations locally.
- ✓ Support providers to design interventions, with coherent theories of change, and data collection models that enable robust evaluation.
- ✓ Undertake a comprehensive review and evaluation of the A&E Navigator programme to ensure the delivery model is aligned to the local context and need.
- ✓ Fund discrete pilot projects to test novel and innovative approaches with a view to evaluating and scaling up, where appropriate.

Our interventions

Public health approaches start from the principle that prevention is better than cure. We have employed an established three-tier approach, which recognises that there are opportunities for prevention even after a problem has emerged.

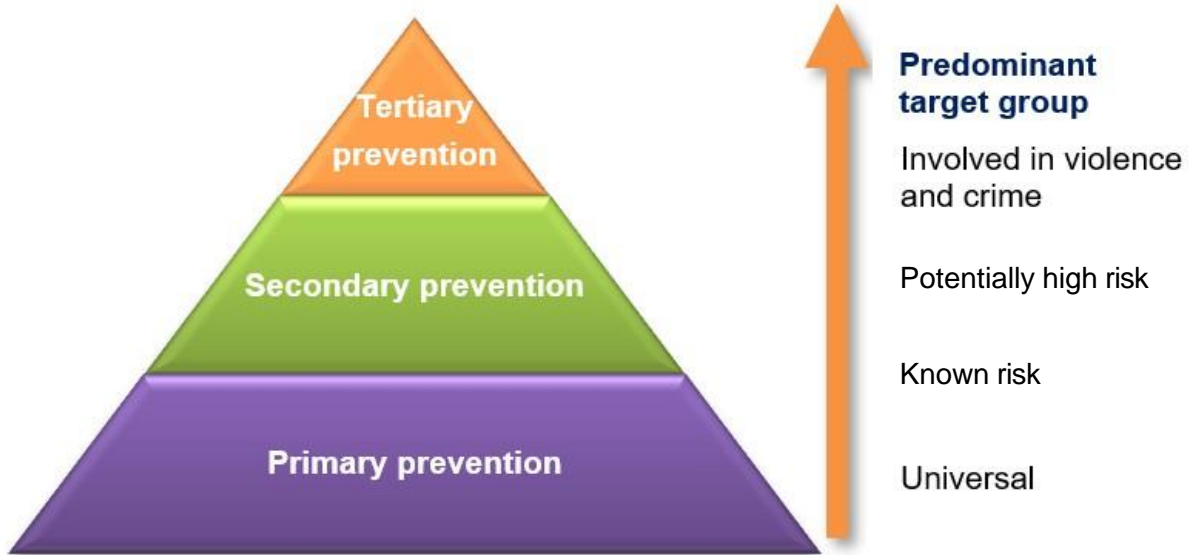


Fig. 5: Prevention tiers and predominant target groups

Primary prevention aims to prevent the problem occurring in the first place. Secondary prevention provides early intervention, identifying risk factors as they begin to emerge and working to reduce them whilst increasing protective factors. Tertiary prevention aims to ensure an ongoing problem is managed to avoid crises and reduce harmful consequences, supporting a person to access more positive pathways.

The VRP commissions and oversees the delivery of the following prevention models as part of its suite of interventions:

- Prevention – awareness raising or education based programmes
- Early intervention – diversionary youth outreach activities and programmes
- Therapeutic – tailored interventions and programmes
- Desistance – programmes which aim to cease offending or reoffending

Our commissioned interventions will ensure relevant, high-quality support is provided to children and young people across the life course.

In determining spend on interventions we have been responsive to the evidence base informed by the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Toolkit, which provides an overview of existing research on approaches to preventing serious youth violence. Cost is determined by the proportion of overall funding invested in the intervention.

Intervention	Intervention type - Overview	Prevention type	Delivery Model	Predominant Target Group	Cost	Est. impact on violent crime
Sports diversion programmes with mentoring	Community led secondary prevention programme, delivered in hotspot areas, which engages children and young people in organised sports or physical activity, with structured mentoring	Secondary Tertiary	Early intervention	Potentially high risk	£££	HIGH
Cognitive Behavioural Therapy	Community based talking therapy to support children and young people impacted by serious violence in the City and County to manage negative thoughts and behaviours	Secondary Tertiary	Therapeutic	Known risk	£	HIGH
Focussed deterrence	Another Way Programme - Targetted support and enforcement approaches in partnership with YOTs, Police and community providers, focussed on Urban Street Groups to deter them away from serious violence and provide concrete alternative pathways, including education, training and employment	Tertiary	Desistence	Involved in violence / crime	££	HIGH
Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities	Healthy Relationships programmes in both primary and secondary school settings including targeted projects for young people identified as being at risk. Topics include Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships, Abuse in Teen Relationships, Toxic Behaviours and Consent	Primary	Prevention	Universal	££	MODERATE
Mentoring programmes with targeted youth outreach	Targeted community led outreach in a hotspot area of the City with a view to deescalating incidents of violence and identifying, engaging and offering holistic support to CYP at risk through mentoring and partnership referrals. Delivered by multiple providers	Secondary	Early intervention	Potentially high risk	£££	MODERATE

Educational interventions	Community led child criminal exploitation and knife crime awareness programme, including targeted support for individuals at risk of or already impacted by violence and exploitation	Primary Secondary	Early intervention / Prevention	Potentially high risk	£	Unknown
Trauma-informed interventions	Trauma-informed support for children and young people who witness domestic violence in the home, in the City and County	Secondary	Early intervention	Potentially high risk	£	Unknown
Mentoring Prison intervention	A structured mentoring programme seeking to reduce incidents of violence both within the prison and out in the community by increasing resilience, improving life skills and building support networks	Tertiary	Desistence	Involved in violence / crime	££	Unknown <i>NB. mentoring in the community has been evidenced to have a moderate impact.</i>

Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

During 2023/2024 the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership has established a partnership agreement that will be in place in the area to deliver requirements set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, Serious Violence Duty. The agreement seeks to provide the strategic outline of how the duty will be implemented.

Governance

The partnership structure aims to provide strategic, systemwide leadership and coordination of the countywide response to serious violence. It aims to add value to and is dependent on existing multi-agency arrangements, as illustrated in figure 6.

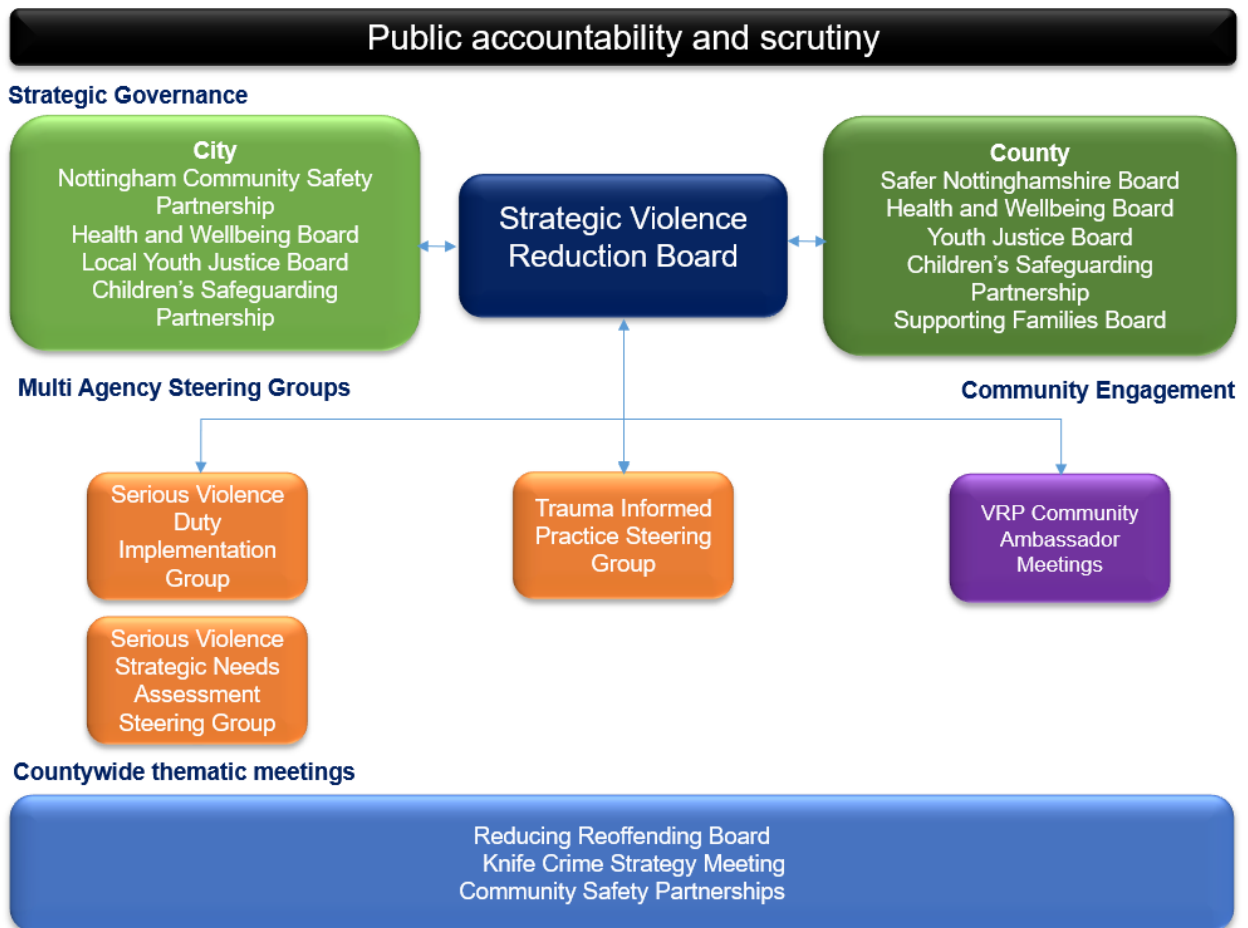


Fig. 6 NNVRP governance structure

This governance structure includes appropriate representation from:

- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottingham City Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Ashfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Mansfield District Council
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Nottingham City Probation Service
- Nottinghamshire County Probation Service
- Local authority – Children’s Services, YJS, Education (Nottinghamshire County)
- Local authority – Children’s Services, YJS, Education (Nottingham City)
- Local authority – Public Health (Nottinghamshire County)
- Local authority – Public Health (Nottingham City)
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board
- Local Education Institution Representative (City) – Nottingham City College
- Local Education Institution Representative (County) – Vision West Nottinghamshire College
- HMP Nottingham on behalf of HM Prison Service

These authorities are jointly responsible for decision-making regarding the Duty through the Strategic Violence Reduction Board, and the City and County Community Safety Partnerships, and decisions around how the Duty is implemented in the city and county are multi-agency in nature.

The Board also has a representative from the Community Ambassadors and Nottingham Trent University in an advisory capacity.

Roles and responsibilities

Specified authorities

The following provides a summary of the role of each authority, please refer to the [Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance](#) for further information.

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Whilst not subject to the Duty themselves, local policing bodies have a key role in supporting delivery. The Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (NOPCC) has taken a lead convening role to support the development and implementation of the local strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence. Regulations conferring functions on local policing bodies have been made under section 14 of the PCSC Act, to enable them to assist a specified authority in relation to the Duty.

This includes making grants to specified authorities, convening and chairing meetings, requiring representatives of the specified authorities, relevant authorities (educational, prison or youth custody authorities) or such other persons as they consider appropriate to attend such meetings, and providing administrative and management support to the specified authority.

The PCC may also monitor specified authorities exercise of their Serious Violence Duty functions. This includes requests for information made under section 17 of the PCSC Act in order to fulfil their role of enabling and monitoring the effectiveness of local strategies.

The NNVRP team is a function of the NOPCC. In addition to core staff, the team includes representatives from public health, early help, youth justice, the community sector and the police with a range of specialist skills and knowledge. The role of the NNVRP team is to:

- Lead the development and implementation of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and Response Strategy
- Provide strategic coordination of violence reduction activity countywide by working in collaboration with partners and communities
- Produce analytical products to inform the strategic response to serious violence
- Commission and evaluate primary, secondary and tertiary interventions aimed at reducing serious violence
- Ensure that the voice of young people and the wider community is captured and informs violence reduction activity
- Develop and implement research and evaluation to contribute to the local and national evidence base.

Police

The police have a critical role to play in enforcing the law to protect the public.

Collaboration with partners can aid early identification and diversion from involvement in serious violence which are crucial in reversing the increase in harm largely caused by and against young people. Existing work to investigate, disrupt, deter and enforce using the full range of policing powers and tools available (for example, stop and search) should still continue as well as work undertaken within statutory safeguarding arrangements to support vulnerable children and young people, referring to support and healthcare services where appropriate.

The Duty applies to the Chief Officer of police for all police force areas in England and Wales. Chief Officers of police are specified authorities under the PCSC Act. The Chief Officer should ensure that there is appropriate representation to all partnerships operating within their force area. This representative should be able to:

- Engage fully with local partnerships, including by establishing and maintaining the use of anonymised information from NHS emergency departments regarding the locations in which people are injured in violence and weapons used
- Share relevant police data and information to inform the strategic needs assessment for the local area (for example; data on numbers and trends in violence against the person including knife crime, gun crime, homicides and drugs as well as domestic abuse or sexual violence related incidents, , information on local serious violence hotspots including people and places, information on county lines drug dealing etc.)

- Support the development and implementation of a strategy to address the risks identified
- Facilitate the use of a relevant risk assessment tool
- Support work to deliver prevention and early intervention activities and explain to partners how their data can help inform this work

Local Authority

Local authorities are responsible for the delivery of a range of vital services for people and businesses in a local area, including but not limited to, children's and adult's social care, children and adult safeguarding, schools, housing and planning, youth services, business support, alcohol licensing, leisure, substance misuse, community safety as well as public health commissioning and commissioning of support services for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls crimes, so will have an essential role to play in partnership arrangements.

Local authorities are well placed to complement the work of other agencies and contribute to the prevention and reduction of serious violence by:

- Sharing a range of relevant aggregated data sets for the development of the strategic needs assessment (for example data already collected from local schools and social care services),
- Conducting wider preventative work addressing general factors that contribute to risk and vulnerability (e.g. poverty, housing, family challenges, environment),
- Leading on wider public health commissioning to support prevention and address risk factors or impacts of trauma (e.g. substance misuse services including alcohol treatment services),
- Providing information on availability/pressures on local resources including housing, community support, children's social care, etc., and
- Effectively commissioning and supporting early intervention initiatives such as Keeping Children Safe In Education which could be required in response to issues concerning child criminal exploitation, gang activity, sexual violence, domestic abuse
- Ensuring comprehensive and timely support to children and young people engaged in or at risk of serious violence through effective discharge of their duties and powers.

Youth Offending Teams

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, YOTs have a duty to co-operate as a multi-agency entity to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area and drive a strategic effort to prevent offending by children and young people. They play a critical role as they are well placed to identify children and young people known to relevant organisations and agencies who are likely to be involved in perpetrating serious violence. Through existing partnerships, they collaborate with partners to aid early identification and diversion from involvement in serious violence.

The YOT must comply with the Duty, as specified authorities under the PCSC Act, and should nominate a representative from the team who should be able to: Engage fully with

the relevant local partnership to prevent and tackle serious violence, and where applicable, as a core member of the local Violence Reduction Unit.

- Share relevant aggregated and anonymised data, where practicable, to support the development of the evidence-based problem profile/strategic assessment (for example; information on local serious violence hotspots, information on county lines drug dealing networks and wider child criminal exploitation etc.)
- Support publication and implementation of the strategy to address the risks identified, ensuring that children and their interests are fairly represented in such discussions
- Identify and act to ensure children's best interests, including safeguarding requirements and reducing vulnerability to criminal exploitation, are kept at the forefront of any strategic planning Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance.
- Advise on appropriate responses to increase levels of safety within the local partnership area and enable children to be able to move beyond their offending behaviour and status.
- Assist in the delivery of prevention and early intervention initiatives where possible, and explain to partners how their input can help enhance this work
- Work across local authority areas and organisational boundaries where children are not located in the partnership area (for example, when leaving custody, transitioning from youth to adult custody or in county lines drug dealing cases where children may be far from their home area)

Probation

Probation helps to protect the public and reduce reoffending, with a focus on overseeing the rehabilitation activities for those on licence or serving community sentences. For those sentenced to prison, the aim is to address the factors linked to their offending behaviour whilst in custody and prepare them for release on licence to the community. Once released the Probation Service is responsible for supervising the individual and initiating recall where necessary for public protection, as well as managing risks, continuing the rehabilitative process and helping the individual to reintegrate successfully. For those serving community sentences, the Probation Service is responsible for ensuring the individual meets the requirements ordered by the courts.

The Duty applies to a provider of probation services under section 3(6) of the Offender Management Act 2007, who are specified authorities under the PCSC Act.

Local Delivery Unit (LDU) heads who represent the Probation Service at Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) should be responsible for ensuring that there is appropriate representation to the partnership. The representative should be able to:

- Engage fully with the local partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence
- Share currently collated and/or published data and information to inform the strategic assessment for the local area (for example; Offender management quarterly statistics – key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision and/or Criminal court statistics – National Statistics on cases in the magistrates' courts and Crown Court)

- Use relevant aggregated Risk-Need-Responsivity Data to inform the design and commissioning of interventions aimed at reducing reoffending (The Risk Need-Responsivity Model)
- Support the development and implementation of the local strategy to address the risks identified
- Collaborate with local partners to help reduce instances of re-offending amongst violent offenders and protect vulnerable groups (for example, victims of domestic abuse)

Health

Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) are partnerships of health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up services and to improve the health of people who live and work in their area.

- tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access
- enhance productivity and value for money
- help the NHS support broader social and economic development
- improve outcomes in population health and healthcare.

To meet the legislative requirements of the Duty, the accountable officer of an ICB should ensure that there is appropriate representation to the partnership of specified authorities. As part of the partnership, this representative will be expected to:

- Facilitate the sharing of relevant anonymous health data and information to inform the problem profile/strategic needs assessment for the area (for example, number of violent injuries treated within NHS urgent care settings),
- Support the development and implementation of a strategy to identify and mitigate the risks identified and agree an approach to preventing serious violence, managing related health problems, and improving wellbeing/resilience of the community.

Fire and Rescue

Fire and Rescue services have a tradition of engaging with local communities to promote fire safety as well as wider models of community and individual engagement to support citizenship, community cohesion and direct support to vulnerable individuals and communities. Work with children and young people, safeguarding as well as fire reduction strategies, such as the sectors work to reduce deliberate fires, should be recognised as part of the Duty.

Fire and Rescue Services should be supported to deliver trauma informed interventions, engagement activities and safety education to targeted children and young people which supports the personal development and social and emotional learning of the child to reduce their vulnerability and increase their resilience in line with current practice and evidence of what works to reduce serious violence.

Fire and Rescue Services should continue to develop partnerships to support risk reduction services to those identified as vulnerable and at risk from exploitation or abuse.

Safeguarding within the fire sector is immersed in collaborative approaches with the majority of fire and rescue services represented at Local Authority Safeguarding Children and Local Authority Safeguarding Adult Boards and this should be developed as a core function of all Fire and Rescue Services.

Relevant authorities

The following are a secondary group known as the relevant authorities who are able to co-operate with the specified authorities as necessary

Prisons

Prisons help to protect the public and play an important role in the rehabilitation of people who have committed violent offences. People in prison and people on probation include those that can contribute to violence both in the prison, and in the wider community, through demand for drugs and contraband and participation in organised crime. The prison population also includes people who are at risk of being a victim of violence, particularly domestic abuse in the case of females.

The governor or director of the prison is responsible for complying with the Duty. They may wish to identify a suitable representative, who should be able to:

- Engage with the relevant partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- Share and contextualise anonymised aggregate prison data that is published or collated for business as usual purposes by the prison or HMPPS nationally.

Secure Estate

The Children and Young People Secure Estate (CYPSE) settings protect the public and have a critical role to play in the care and rehabilitation of children who have committed or may be at risk of becoming involved in serious violence. Working with other agencies and organisations they can plan and deliver evidence-led child centred approaches which can help to prevent and reduce serious violence. This includes violence reduction within secure establishments themselves, and in the wider community.

Governors of Young Offender Institutions, Governors or Directors of Secure Training Centres, Registered Managers of Secure Children's Homes and Heads of Secure Schools are responsible for complying with the Duty. Governors of Young Offender Institutions and Governors of Secure Training Centres may wish to identify a representative. The representative should be able to:

- Engage fully with the local partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence both in the community and within secure establishments
- Support the development of the evidence-based strategic needs assessment and publication and implementation of the strategy to address the drivers of serious violence within establishments and within the local partnership area
- Identify opportunities for agencies to work across local authority boundaries to tackle specific serious violence issues
- Share relevant aggregated and anonymised data, operational knowledge and experience transparently (for example; data and trends in drug dealing, resettlement needs, security issues, violence against staff and contraband, insight and experience

relating to children and young people who have offended, useful information which may support crime prevention, and, where appropriate, insight and information from resident children and young people themselves)

- Review and build upon existing partnerships wherever possible (e.g. Youth Offending Teams, Children's Social Care, Secure Children's Homes, NHS and Education providers)
- Identify impacts of serious violence within the local community e.g. violence against staff and children within establishments

Education

Educational authorities may also choose to collaborate with a specified authority, a prison or youth custody authority or another educational authority in that area of their own volition. Or, if requested by the specified authorities or another prison, youth custody or educational authority, educational authorities must collaborate with other partners in the preventing and reducing serious violence in the area (the preparation and delivery of the strategy).

Other networks and groups

The following are multi-agency and community groups and networks which influence the development of the violence reduction strategy and individual workstreams.

Violence Reduction Stakeholder Network

The Violence Reduction Stakeholder Network provides a forum for practitioners from core member organisations and community groups. The Network provides an opportunity for engagement, collaboration and ensures consensus from the wider partnership to deliver this Response Strategy.

Thematic Steering Groups

Thematic steering groups engage subject matter experts from across the multi-agency landscape in developing and implementing plans around areas of strategic focus, including data and evidence, trauma-informed practice and youth work.

Community and Youth Ambassadors

To amplify the voice of community members, the NNVRP employs community and youth ambassadors on a voluntary basis. Many of the ambassadors have proven expertise in supporting young people and communities impacted by serious violence, or are young people who are passionate about having a voice in their community.

The community ambassadors support delivery of the NNVRP's response plan through involvement in projects; they help to build relationships between the NNVRP and local people, and empower them to have a stake in the serious violence agenda. The ambassadors are also represented on the Strategic Violence Reduction Board.

Monitoring and evaluation

A detailed Partnership Response Plan has been developed to support and monitor the implementation of this Response Strategy. This is accompanied by a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as illustrated in figure 7 which aligns with the WHO four-step process



Fig. 7 NNVRP monitoring and evaluation framework

Performance monitoring and analysis – in line with our ambition to make best use of data we will continue to improve data quality and accessibility and will invest in analytical capability to ensure robust monitoring, insight and analysis around trends in serious violence, including mandated success measures.

Intervention monitoring and analysis – we will work with providers to ensure that each intervention has a coherent theory of change and logic model. We will also ensure systems are in place to enable good quality quantitative and qualitative data is captured against a common outcomes framework, demonstrating the impact of interventions individually and collectively.

Stakeholder insight – we will continue to capture insight and feedback from stakeholders across the partnership including communities, practitioners and service users to inform our response.

Independent evaluation – we will participate in national and local independent evaluation, including Home Office-commissioned evaluation of VRUs and local process, impact and/or economic evaluation.

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