



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER



**VRP** Violence  
Reduction  
Partnership  
Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire  
Violence Reduction Partnership

**Serious Violence  
Response Strategy**  
**2022-2025**

Updated April 2023

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# 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 fifth 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.



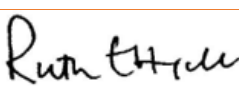
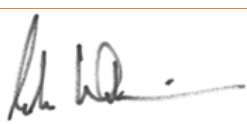







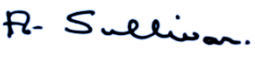
As we enter our fifth year of delivery, we are in an excellent position to lead this change, embracing the legislative changes in the form of the Serious Violence Duty to further strengthen our partnership approach, and to continue to work toward a safer Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for all.






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

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

## NNVRP Core Membership Signatories

This Strategy has been agreed and signed off by the following NNVRP core members, as defined in the Home Office guidance.

| Organisation   | Role/<br>Representative                      | Name                | Signature   |
|--|--|---------------------|---|
| Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner                                    | Police and Crime Commissioner                | Caroline Henry      |    |
| Nottinghamshire Police   | Chief Constable                              | Kate Meynell        |    |
| Local authority – CSPs (Nottinghamshire County)                                | Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council    | Ruth Hyde           |    |
| Local authority – CSPs (Nottingham City)                                       | Head of Service, Community Safety            | Colin Wilderspin    |    |
| Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service  | Assistant Chief Fire Officer                 | Damien West         |   |
| Nottingham City Probation Service  | Head of Service                              | Kat Johnson         |  |
| Nottinghamshire County Probation Service                                       | Head of Service                              | Saika Jabeen        |  |
| Local authority – Children’s Services, YJS, Education (Nottinghamshire County) | Corporate Director for Children and Families | Colin Pettigrew     |  |
| Local authority – Children’s Services, YJS, Education (Nottingham City)        | Corporate Director for People                | Catherine Underwood |  |
| Local authority – Public Health (Nottinghamshire County)                       | Director of Public Health                    | Jonathan Gribbin    |  |
| Local authority – Public Health (Nottingham City)                              | Director of Public Health                    | Lucy Hubber         |  |
| Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board                           | Chief Executive                              | Amanda Sullivan     |  |

|   |   |                        |   |
|---|---|------------------------|---|
| <b>Office for Health Improvement and Disparities</b>  | Deputy Director Health, Wellbeing and Workforce | <i>Ann Crawford</i>    |  |
| <b>Health representative – Nottingham University Hospital</b>                                     | Director of Major Trauma Centre                 | <i>Adam Brooks</i>     |  |
| <b>Local educational institution -Nottingham City Nottingham City College</b>                     | <i>Deputy Principal</i>                         | <i>Mohammed Ramzan</i> |  |
| <b>Local educational institution - Nottinghamshire County Vision West Nottinghamshire College</b> | <i>Principal and CEO</i>                        | <i>Andrew Cropley</i>  |  |
| <b>HMP Nottingham on behalf of HM Prison Service</b>  | <i>Head of Drug Strategy</i>                    | <i>Pauline Womack</i>  |  |

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# Introduction

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the government published its Serious Violence Strategy<sup>1</sup> 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 organisations above 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 local 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).

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.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-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.

Describing some violence as serious does not mean that other violence is of little consequence, as each act of violence has an impact that can be affected by the victims' previous experiences or by their relationship with the perpetrator.



# 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.

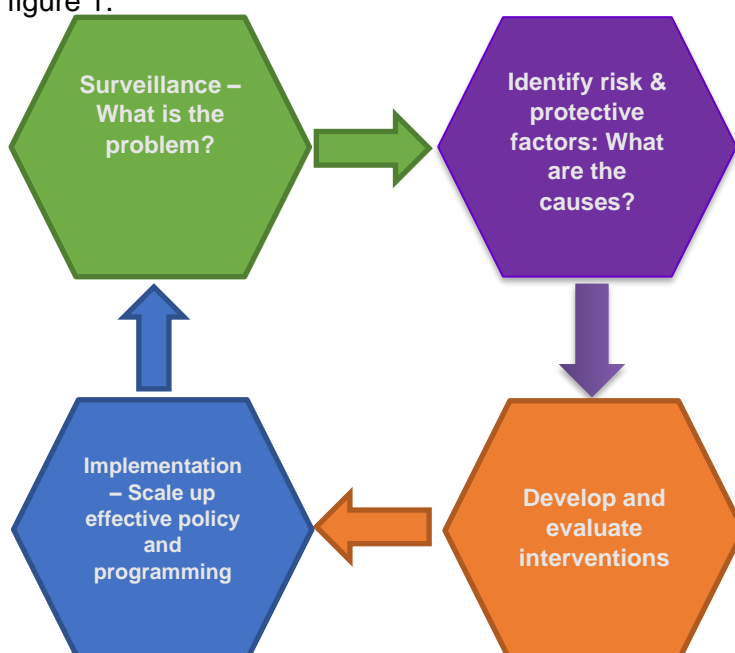


Fig. 1 The WHO 4-Step process

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 individual 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.

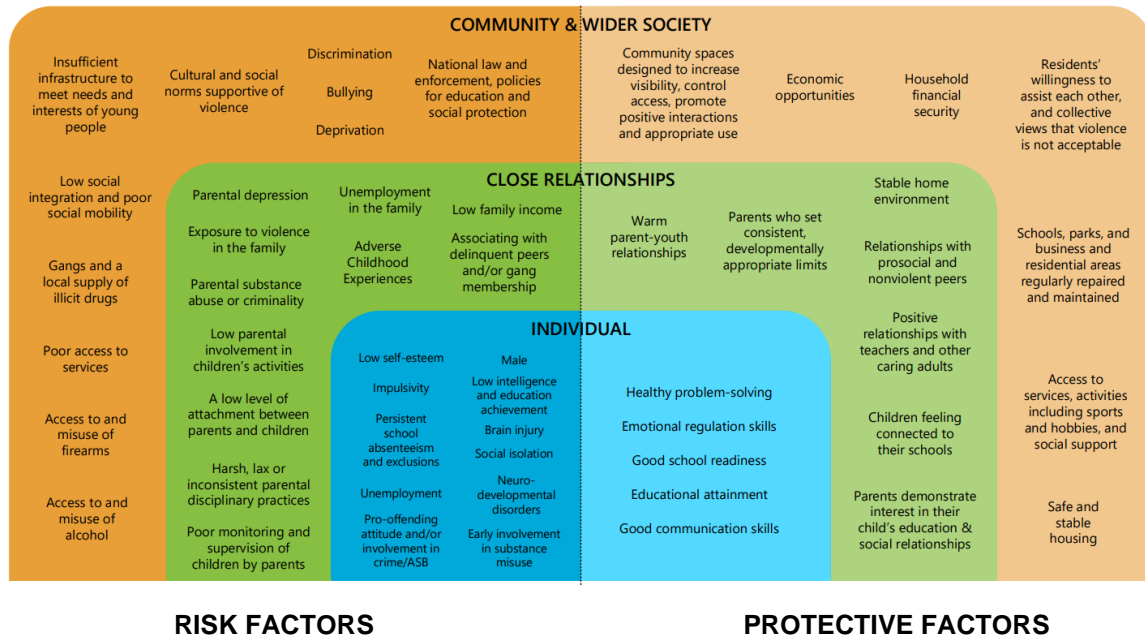


Fig. 2 Risk and protective factors at an individual, relationship and societal level which may cause children and young people to be impacted by serious violence and the protective factors which may mitigate against the identified risks.

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.

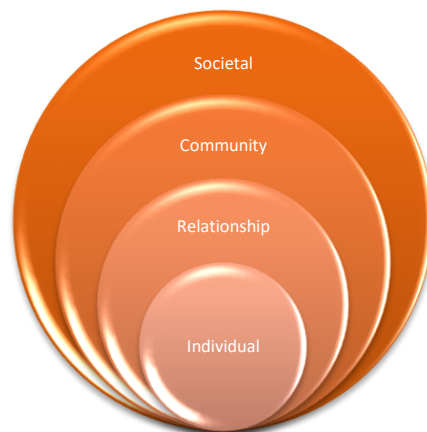


Fig 3. WHO Social-Ecological Model

Prevention strategies at each level may include:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Individual</b>   | Promoting attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that prevent violence, including educational interventions, social-emotional learning and healthy relationship programmes   |
| <b>Relationship</b> | 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.                           |
| <b>Community</b>    | 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. |
| <b>Societal</b>     | 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

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Collaboration</b>       | We bring partners together from a broad range of functions who have the shared goal of tackling serious violence. |
| <b>Co-production</b>       | Partners, communities and young people participate in informing our approach.                                     |
| <b>Co-operation</b>        | We work with partners to overcome barriers to effective data and information sharing.                             |
| <b>Counter-narrative</b>   | We promote positive alternatives for young people.  |
| <b>Community consensus</b> | 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](http://www.nottsvru.co.uk)

## Trends in Serious Violence

**7% reduction in police recorded serious violence in 2022 compared to the 2019 pre-pandemic year**

**4.2% decrease EMAS recorded casualties relating to violent events in 2022 compared to the 2019 pre-pandemic year**

**14% increase in police recorded sexual violence in 2022 compared to the 2019 baseline. This follows reductions during COVID lockdown**

**25% reduction in knife-related robbery but increases in weapon-enabled domestic violence offences have increased since 2019**

**Marginal (2%) increase in police recorded 'crime harm' associated with serious violence – largely due to a rise in recorded sexual offences**

**Violence with injury excluding section 47 offences increased by 40% in 2022, partly impacted by a rise in non-fatal strangulation / suffocation offences**

## Demographic, Geographic and Temporal trends

**Young males aged 20-24 continue to account for the vast majority of known perpetrators of serious violence. The profile of victimisation varies according to the nature of the offence.**

**Ongoing concentrations in serious violence in Nottingham City Centre and Mansfield Town Centre reflected across police and EMAS data sets**

**Males aged 15 to 19 account for the vast majority of knife enabled robbery victims and offenders. People from Asian backgrounds remain disproportionately represented as victims of these offences**

**Significant concentrations in volume and criticality of serious violence during the 6pm to 6am Friday and Saturday nights**

## Key findings: Stakeholder Insight

The SNA includes qualitative data gathered through engagement activity with local practitioners, communities, children and young people. The Institute for Public Safety Crime and Justice undertook a thematic qualitative study, Exploring Serious Violence in Nottinghamshire, in 2021/22. Here are some key insights:

### Victims/Perpetrators

Often, perpetrators of serious violence are also victims; in many cases they have experienced significant trauma as children and young people. This conflicts against a simple narrative of 'victims', 'perpetrators', and 'community' as being detached and distinct

There is strong support for services being trauma-informed, reflecting a clear consensus that trauma, and particularly elements of early trauma in childhood, have a marked effect on vulnerability to involvement in serious violence later in life

### Young People

The complex nature of the issue of violence and its relation to young people was exposed, the young person is often seen as being responsible for his or her behaviour yet they are immersed in an often chaotic environment

The need to improve the advocacy and support available to young people across place-based systems was highlighted by several practitioners

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

There is a recognition of there being a disproportionate number of those with SEND within the justice service. and at risk of being drawn into Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation, gangs or other types of violence as a victim or perpetrator

Exclusion from school is a strong risk factor and there was concern over the readiness of some academies to exclude young people who were being disruptive, that they are centred towards academic results which can mean that the culture is not conducive to those with diverse needs

### Culture and Emerging Communities

There is a drive and motivation from organisations working with diverse communities to deepen and develop greater understanding. It is only through a depth of understanding that we can build trust that then enables communities to be part of the decision-making and solution architecture

### Partnerships, Providers, Place

For those working across a range of different settings supporting victims, working with perpetrators, and commissioning services, social media is seen as a significant driver of patterns of serious violence, and as a critical area that the partnership needs to get better at understanding

# 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.

## 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:

- ✓ Add to our core membership to ensure representation from specified authorities, including Community Safety Partnerships and Fire and Rescue
- ✓ Review the partnership-wide governance structure in relation to serious violence to ensure efficient and effective mechanisms are in place to manage risk and accountability across the partnership
- ✓ Convene a data steering group to consider arrangements for data sharing, the process for developing joint analytical products, including the SNA 2024/25
- ✓ Maximise 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
- ✓ Implement an internal partnership marketing strategy to ensure partners at all levels have a well-developed understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the Duty

## Develop and implement a Trauma-informed Strategy to embed trauma-informed approaches within services across the partnership.

We will:

- ✓ Further embed through a clear delivery plan the partnership wide Trauma-informed Strategy
- ✓ Co-produce a framework for trauma-informed organisations including use of self, peer and service user assessments
- ✓ Co-produce a workforce development and support framework
- ✓ Map evidence-based trauma-focused interventions and treatments
- ✓ Assess readiness and assist each organisation within the partnership to develop and implement internal plans
- ✓ Ensure there is visibility and ongoing system-level commitment to trauma-informed practice through using the Reducing Serious Violence Board as a forum for disseminating good practice and addressing any barriers to change



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

We will:

- ✓ Co-produce, with young people, a 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
- ✓ Co-produce and implement a 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
- ✓ Provide workforce development opportunities for all practitioners working with children and young people to understand serious violence and exploitation in the online space

**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
- ✓ Integrate the findings from the recent community assets assessment and qualitative research with our ongoing community conversations on key themes of disproportionality, adversity and trauma, and financial wellbeing
- ✓ Improve accessibility and further target interventions on those most vulnerable to exploitation through awareness and use of information and intelligence

**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:

- ✓ Analyse results of qualitative engagement with educational institutions to inform the problem definition
- ✓ Develop guidance for schools including information, further support and signposting to pathways for children and young people at risk of being impacted by serious violence
- ✓ Work with partners in local authority and across educational institutions to design and implement solutions which recognise the need for a contextual safeguarding approach
- ✓ Work in partnership with partners to ensure schools and early intervention officers are well-equipped to support children and educational institutions to identify and support early intervention and prevention opportunities, including closer working with the VRP and access to workforce development

### 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:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Explore opportunities for a shared data dashboard across partners to improve visibility and shared understanding
- ✓ Ensure completeness of datasets e.g. working with colleagues in probation
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Annual identification of topics through the SNA process for further analysis such as deep dive studies, e.g. patterns of serious violence in 15-19 year olds
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Assess the issues associated with pressures on the criminal justice system, specifically in relation to the experiences of young people affected by serious violence, to understand the impacts on wellbeing and behaviours, and the wider community perceptions on violence
- ✓ Scope a workstream to develop our understanding of young people experiencing key risk factors of missing episodes, exclusions and alternative provision, and those not in education, employment and training, paying particular attention to disproportionality
- ✓ Strengthen the partnership's response to the incitement of violence on social media and issues concerning contextual safeguarding in the online space, building on

recommendations from the search undertaken by the St Giles Trust, and anticipating the Online Safety Bill

- ✓ Deliver commissioned research into how boys' beliefs and behaviours develop in relation to violence and the extent to which boys who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence are more likely to develop harmful beliefs and behaviours
- ✓ Convene a multi-organisation task and finish group to explore additional local insight into disproportionality and to determine where there may be additional opportunities for screening and intervention in regard to speech and language therapy and to special educational needs and disabilities.
- ✓ Work with Nottinghamshire Police and other partners to further understand the role that serious organised crime and slavery and exploitation play as drivers of violence in the area

### 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.

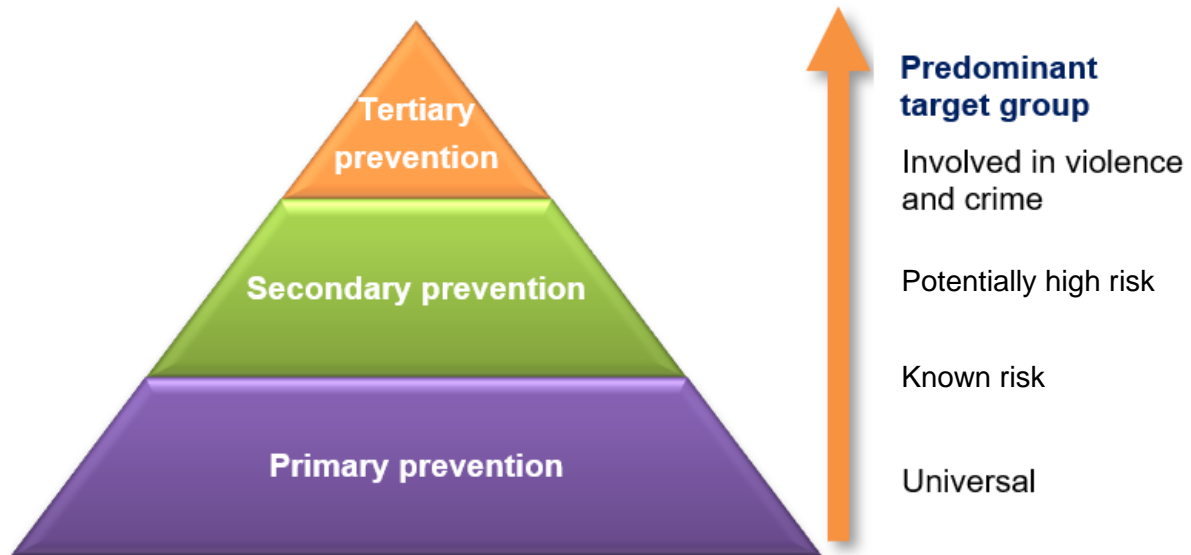


Fig. 5: Prevention tiers and predominant target groups

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.

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 as outlined in the table below.

| Intervention                                       | Overview  | Prevention type       | Estimated impact on violent crime (YEF Toolkit) |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Mentoring programmes with targeted outreach</b> | Matching children and young people with mentors who provide guidance and support in a community setting.  | Secondary             | HIGH  |
| <b>Sports diversion programmes with mentoring</b>  | Secondary or tertiary prevention programmes which engage children in organised sports or physical activity, with mentoring.   | Secondary<br>Tertiary | HIGH  |
| <b>Cognitive Behavioural Therapy</b>               | A talking therapy which helps people recognise and manage negative thoughts and behaviours.   | Secondary<br>Tertiary | HIGH  |
| <b>Focussed deterrence (YEF funded)</b>            | A strategy that combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it.   | Tertiary              | HIGH  |
| <b>Pre-court diversion (YEF funded)</b>            | Diverting children who have committed first time or low-level offences away from the criminal justice system.   | Tertiary              | MODERATE  |
| <b>Educational interventions</b>                   | Standardised awareness raising programmes, available to primary, secondary schools and alternative provisions.  | Primary<br>Secondary  | TBC*  |
| <b>Contextual safeguarding pilots</b>              | Community-based, multi-agency-led contextual safeguarding pilots in hotspot areas of the City and County which seek to identify and reduce risks within the physical environment. | Secondary             | TBC*  |
| <b>Trauma-informed interventions</b>               | Trauma-informed support for children and young people who witness domestic violence in the home.  | Secondary             | TBC*  |
| <b>Domestic violence perpetrator programme</b>     | To help people who have been abusive change their behaviour and develop healthy, non-abusive relationships.   | Tertiary              | TBC*  |

# Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

The Strategic Violence Reduction Board provides strategic, systemwide leadership and coordination of the countywide response to serious violence. It seeks to add value to and is dependent on existing multi-agency arrangements, as illustrated in figure 6.



Fig. 6 NNVRP governance structure

## Core membership

The core membership of the Board, which is chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner, includes senior officer representation from the following organisations:

- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottingham City Council
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
- Safer Nottinghamshire Board, representing County Community Safety Partnerships
- Crime and Drugs Partnership (City Community Safety Partnership)
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Probation
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue



- Vision West Nottinghamshire College
- Nottingham College
- HMP Nottingham
- Nottingham University Hospitals

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

The Board collaborates with the following statutory partnerships to deliver violence reduction activity:

**Safer Nottinghamshire Board.** The Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) is a countywide strategic group that is required under Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 to ensure the delivery of shared priorities and a community safety agreement. It supports local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and aims to bring together agencies and communities to tackle crime and ASB in local areas.

Local CSPs represent the following areas of the County: South Nottinghamshire, Mansfield and Ashfield and Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood. Violence reduction is recognised in the SNB's Strategic Plan as a priority theme.

**Nottingham Crime and Drug Partnership (CDP).** The CDP is the City's strategic community safety partnership. It is a statutory partnership which comprises key agencies working together to deliver against key priorities of the reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), substance misuse and reoffending. The VRP continues to work closely in partnership with CDP colleagues, who have provided analytical expertise and input into the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to enhance our understanding of the city area.

The Strategic Violence Reduction Board is supported by:

#### **NNVRP team**

The NNVRP team, in addition to core staff 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.

Additionally, the team now manages a small number of externally funded inter-agency violence reduction projects.

### **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**

In order to amplify the voice of community members, the NNVRP employs community and youth ambassadors. 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.

### **Regional and National Collaboration**

The NNVRP draws on learning and expertise from across the national network of VRUs, formally through Home Office-facilitated events, conferences and meetings and informally through relationships with individual VRUs.

In particular, the NNVRP works closely with other VRUs in the Midlands area, including the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Violence Reduction Network (LLVRN) and the West Midlands VRU.

The NNVRP and the LLVRN collaborate with other forces in the East Midlands to share learning and best practice as part of a regional whole system approach.

The East Midlands Violence Reduction Information Network (VRIN) has been set up as a strategic partnership, initially between academics from the University of Leicester, East Midlands Policing Academic Collaboration (EMPAC) and police personnel, with the intention of reducing violent crime in the Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire force areas. It is supported by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and is an opportunity to deepen strategic collaboration between police forces in the region, other local partners and the wider academic community, in order to shape our approaches to reducing violence.

# Monitoring and evaluation

A detailed Partnership Response Plan has been developed in April 2022 to support and monitor the implementation of this Response Strategy. This will be accompanied by a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as illustrated in figure 7 which aligns with the WHO four-step process (figure 1 above).

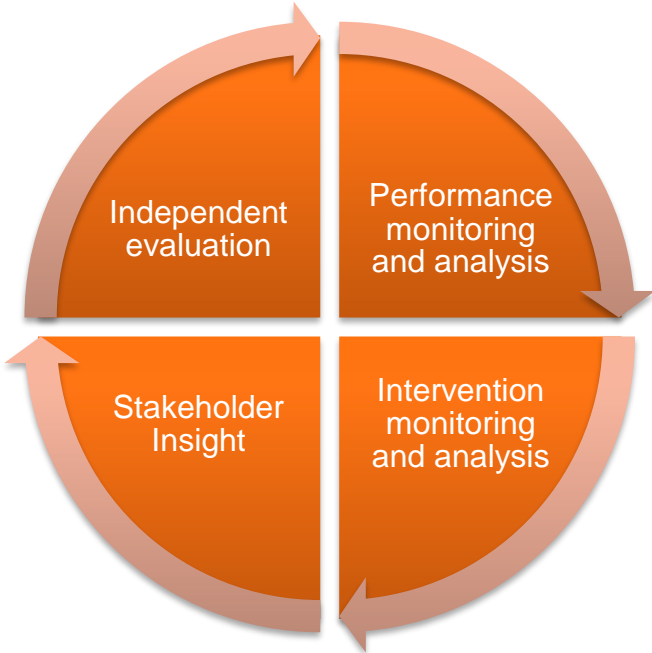


Fig. 7 NNVRP monitoring and evaluation framework

**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.

**Contact us**

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