

## VRN's Violence Intervention Project (VIP) Extends into Police Custody



Following a successful application for additional funding, the Violence Intervention Project (VIP) in the local Emergency Department has extended its operations into the custody suite at Euston Street Police Station. Being arrested can be a critical point for a young person and services are more likely to secure engagement if timely and tailored support is offered during this reachable moment.

Workers from Turning Point are based alongside police colleagues and offer to speak with a young person whilst they are in a police cell. They then offer follow-up support in the community providing tailored support and opportunities with the aim of preventing further violence and building a safer, more positive future. This can include education, training and employment support from Leicestershire Cares and sports and physical activity opportunities provided by Leicester Riders Foundation.

In the first two months of delivery, the project has engaged with 68 young people in custody with 35 receiving ongoing support in the community.

[More info](#)

## VRN Strategic Needs Assessment 2021/22 published

Each year the VRN central team produce a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) on behalf of the partnership. The SNA aims to increase understanding of the types, distribution and extent of serious violence across the City and two Counties. It also helps to identify the groups of people who are most vulnerable to becoming victims or perpetrators of violence and provides a summary of the strategies and interventions that are most likely to be effective in preventing serious violence.

The SNA is used by the VRN to inform its Response Strategy, which outlines how partners will work together to strengthen the local response to preventing violence. A summary of the SNA is available on our website.

[More info](#)

## Local Supporting Families Programmes and the VRN inform National Project

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were approached by the Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in relation to a national project which aims to better understand synergies between Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) and Supporting Families.

Colleagues from our three Supporting Families Programmes, as well as members of the VRN central team, were able to share local examples of how we have built links between these programmes for the benefit of children and families. This included the Families Affected by Parental Imprisonment Project, data sharing to better understand the local prevalence of risk factors and work aimed at Reducing Parental Conflict. These examples of good practice will be shared nationally when the project publishes its findings.

## Introducing the Live Safe Website

A new website [www.livesafe.org.uk](http://www.livesafe.org.uk) has been launched by the VRN as a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers to explore issues relating to safety.

Consistent with one of the VRN's principles 'everyone has a role to play', the website aims to equip young people and parents with factual information about key dangers facing young people such as grooming, gangs, child exploitation, knife crime, where to get support and ways to anonymously report crimes and concerns. It also includes information about the 'Make a Stand Against Violence' campaign which informs young people about how to safely take action against violence and look out for their friends.

A partnership toolkit has been created for organisations to promote Live Safe, to use on their websites and in their direct work with young people. Future development plans include involving young people in the co-production of additional content and adding a section for professionals. The partnership also intends to use the Live Safe brand to deliver webinars and workshops to young people and parents throughout 2022/23 on topics relating to safety.

[Visit Live Safe](http://www.livesafe.org.uk)

The website launch has been supported with a targeted digital campaign informing young people across the local areas about the new resource. By the end of 2021, digital channels had achieved more than 879,000 impressions, engaged with over 223,000 local young people under the age of 25, and had more than 5,550 'click throughs' to discover more.



## Youth Involvement Partnership Commences

Following an open grant process, the VRN has partnered with eight community-based organisations to advance plans to amplify youth voice and to increase young person involvement in developing responses to prevent violence.

We know that young people are most at risk of serious violence and can offer invaluable insights and identify some of the solutions most likely to work. This can improve the relevance and reach of services and other initiatives such as campaigns. The community organisations will facilitate this whilst also assisting in building a Youth Involvement Framework to help ensure youth voice and influence is embedded into all of the VRN's

future work.

The eight community partners are:

- E2
- Go Getta
- Leicestershire Cares
- Pedestrian
- St Matthew Big Local
- SOCOPA
- Team Hub
- Women for Change

[Read more](#)

## Trauma Informed Practice Training Underway

Following a successful funding bid to the Home Office, the VRN has partnered with Barnardo's to design and deliver a workforce development programme focusing on Trauma-Informed Practice. In recognition of the link between adverse childhood experiences and poorer social and health outcomes, the first module aims to equip professionals with knowledge around childhood adversity and trauma and the ways in which they can affect children throughout their life. A second module focuses on how professionals can develop their practice to be mitigate some of these risks through being trauma aware and informed.

Barnardo's are also offering a third module for organisational leaders to explore how they can support their practitioners through adopting a whole organisation approach.

The training is now underway and is free to all colleagues working in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



[Book here](#)

## VRN Welcomes New Team Member



**Lisa Wilkinson** has joined the VRN team as our Communities and Young People Officer. Lisa has previously worked with young people in a Young Offenders Institution and most recently in a community-based organisation.

In the VRN, she will be responsible for ensuring the VRN works collaboratively with communities and involves young people in all aspects of work. Over the next month, Lisa will be making contact with our community partners to introduce herself and familiarise herself with the work already underway.

## Forthcoming Serious Violence Duty to include Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

In December 2021, the Government announced that they intend to amend the draft legislation which is set to impose a new legal duty on statutory partners and Community Safety partners. These partners will now be required to include Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence as well as public place Serious Violence in their local definition *and* adopt a public health approach in preventing and reducing their occurrence.

The VRN central team is currently supporting local partners to mobilise for this new duty and will issue further guidance as soon as the Home Office issues more information.

## Useful Resources

The VRN website includes a range of useful links relating to serious violence and what works in preventing and reducing its occurrence. Links added in the last quarter include the updated Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) toolkit and a College of Policing toolkit on reducing knife crime

[Useful Links](#)

