



**VIOLENCE  
REDUCTION  
NETWORK**

**PREVENTION THROUGH  
CONNECTION**

**EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY RESOLUTION  
AND PREVENTION SERVICE  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# Introduction

- Rocket Science were commissioned by the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) to conduct an independent evaluation of the Community Resolution and Prevention Service (CRPS).
- CRPS delivers an early intervention and secondary prevention service for young people between the ages of 10 and 17, who live in Leicester, and who are either subject to a community resolution order or have been identified as being at risk of offending.
- CRPS has been operational since October 2019 and is being delivered by Leicester City Council.
- The service is delivered by seven Prevention Officers who provide support and intervention to address risk factors associated with offending including substance misuse, family relationships, anger management, peer pressure, consequential thinking, and victim empathy.
- The service seeks to achieve its intended impacts in relation to reductions in offending and violence related hospital admissions through:
  - increasing the confidence, wellbeing, and self-esteem of young people
  - improving emotional regulation and engagement in positive occupational activities such as education, training, and employment
  - enhancing insight into the consequences of crime

## Methodology

- The evaluation had three aims:
  - To understand what short-term outcomes young people do and do not achieve through the CRPS intervention and how these outcomes are achieved
  - To evidence the longer-term impacts of the intervention in relation to offending and reoffending
  - To provide recommendations for the future delivery of the CRPS
- The evaluation took a mixed-methodological approach combining data analysis with qualitative interviews with young people, their families, Prevention Officers and wider stakeholders.
- Data analysis using monitoring and outcome data supplied by the service has been used to understand the range and types of young people involved in the CRPS and the success of the programme in terms of achieving outcomes and reducing reoffending for particular categories of young people.

# Service Overview

## Summary of Findings:

- 547 participants had completed the CRPS programme by 31 March 2022; of these, 48 participants had completed the programme more than once
- The quarterly intake of young people starting the CRPS programme has increased over time since the start of the programme
- 64% of young people completed the CRPS programme within 50 days
- There were 2,091 recorded appointments kept by 482 CRPS participants – an average of 4.4 appointments per young person. 206 (42%) out of the 482 young people had more than one appointment, indicating ongoing engagement with the programme; for these 206 young people, the average number of appointments kept was 9.6
- 68% of young people had appointments at least once a fortnight
- The most common offences committed by young people prior to starting the CRPS programme are assault and criminal damage
- Over half of participants are based in the 20% most deprived MSOAs in England
- There are relatively few Asian participants (11.5% of participants compared to 37.1% of Leicester’s population as a whole) and relatively higher numbers of White participants (66.1% of participants compared to 50.5% of the local population)
- Three quarters of participants are male
- 51% of participants are aged 10-14 despite this age group making up just 18% of young people receiving a caution or sentence nationally
- The most common source of referral is a Police Community Resolution order

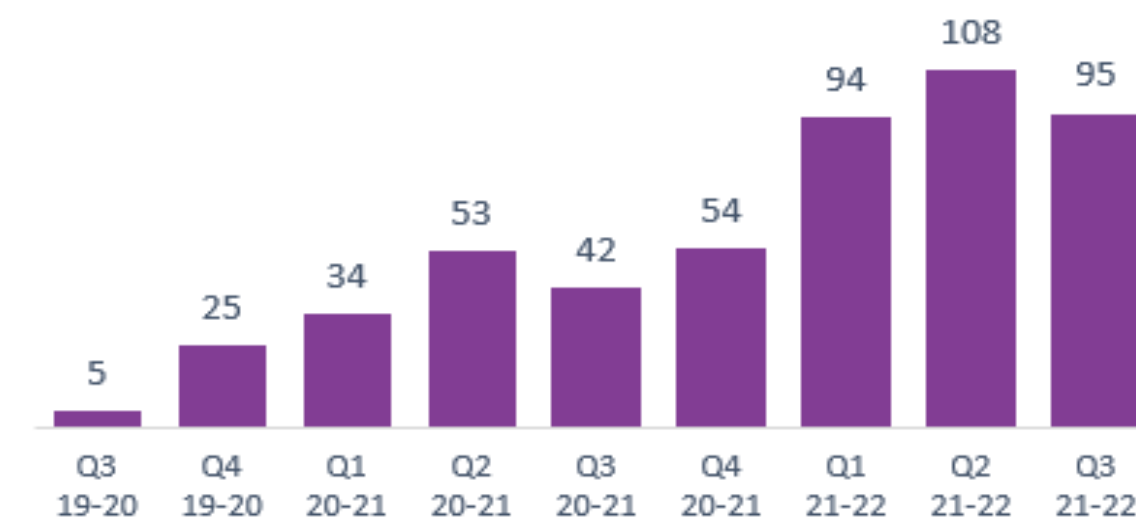


Figure 1: Number of young people starting CRPS programme by quarter, where intervention was also completed by 30 March 22

Length of intervention	Young people	
	n	%
0-10 days	142	26.0%
11-50 days	209	38.2%
51-100 days	101	18.5%
101-150 days	62	11.3%
Over 150 days	33	6.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>547</b>	

Figure 2: Number of young people completing CRPS programme by time between start and end dates

# Impact on the risk factors associated with Violence

## Summary of Findings

- The most common presenting risk factor was the young person's previous involvement in offending behaviour and/or being known to youth offending teams
- Young people reported substantial improvements in their wellbeing, including in their ability to manage their anger, their confidence, and their self-esteem
- Young people's relationships with families reportedly improves as a result of the CRPS programme, with 61% of young people saying their family relationship had improved since they had support from their Prevention Officer
- The improvement on a young person's ability to manage anger was the largest improvement across the group with an increase of 1.6 points
- 66% of young people we asked said their confidence had improved since they had support from their Prevention Officer which had a 1.3 point increase.
- 79% of young people reported an improvement in their motivation
- Education and Training outcomes are those most commonly being addressed by the programme
- 50% of young people reported an improvement in relationships with friends since starting the CRPS programme
- The CRPS programme has helped some young people move into work and sustain employment



Figure 3: CRPS participants' self-reported pre- and post- psycho-social scores

*"Now that I have had the help, I know what to do when I'm angry - I still get angry, but know how to deal with it."*

*"I never had any confidence before I met my Prevention Officer, I couldn't meet anyone new or talk to anyone about what happened, and now I communicate with a lot more people and I'm always making new friends."*

*"Yeah, it's changed a lot, like really a lot, I'm getting along a lot better with my sister and my nan. Before, it would have been a 1 [out of 5], I didn't have a good relationship with them at all, after [CRPS] it would be a 5 [out of 5]."*

*"I had no motivation at all and didn't even turn up to school. My Prevention Officer would come and visit me on my course. He would be there to help and support me, it made me so much more motivated because I felt less stupid."*

# Impact on Future Involvement in Violence

## Summary of Findings

- Criminal justice outcomes data was available for 273 participants and at six-months post intervention 41 (15.0%) had committed at least one offence (56 offences overall – average of 1.4 offences per participant)
- Factors increasing levels of post-intervention offending include living in care, having a disability/neurodevelopmental condition, known to be affected by exploitation and NEET
- Having more than one offence prior to starting the CRPS significantly increases the chances of reoffending after completing the programme
- Young people who either did not respond, or where there was a lack of engagement, had **very low** levels of offending at six months post-intervention. Those young people where the closure reason was ‘MST involved’ had significantly higher rates of offending
- Young people who had a very long time (over 150 days) on the programme significantly higher levels of offending at six months post-intervention
- 84 participants were matched with a comparison group of young people who had received a community resolution in the year prior to the CRPS programme being launched
- There was **no change** in the proportion of young people reoffending between the group of CRPS participants and the matched comparison group – both had 23 young people out of 84 (27.4%) who had committed at least one offence by 12 months
- There were **no significant differences** in reoffending levels for different categories (age, ethnicity, gender) or in the number of offences committed between young people in the comparison group and CRPS group
- There was a **significant difference** in the severity of offences with those who had completed CRPS committing less severe harm than those in the match comparison group

Number of offences	CRPS participants		Comparison group	
	n	%	n	%
0	61	72.6%	61	72.6%
1+	23	27.4%	23	27.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>		<b>84</b>	

Figure 21: Proportion of CRPS participants with at least one offence compared to matched comparison group

# Quality of Support Received

## Summary of Findings – Young People

- Young people received a variety of support, and reported that having an opportunity to talk to someone about how they were feeling and what was happening in their lives being the most useful part of the support
- In relation to employment, the CV writing and support with distribution of CVs to local businesses was extremely helpful for some of the older participants, and in some cases, this led to them gaining employment
- Some young people felt it was easier to open up about their issues outside of the family home, so outdoor activities away from home proved useful to some young people
- Most young people reportedly saw their Prevention Officer 1 or 2 times a week and they said this was enough. Young people particularly benefitted from feeling as though they could call their Prevention Officer any time outside of the sessions
- Face to face support was preferred, but support by 'phone due to Covid-19 restrictions was also perceived as effective

*“Before we started the activities, we would have time to speak about how things were going in general. I think that was the most helpful part of it – I knew they wouldn’t judge me you know, and I could talk to them... if something had gone on in the last few days, I would tell them about it, and we would talk about problem solving. The pathways one was useful too, because I knew that I had options / could make different decisions in the future. “*

## Summary of Findings – Families

- Families benefitted from advice from Prevention Officers and also the support given to their wider family
- Some families gave constructive feedback and the areas they felt needed improvement included the level of engagement and the possibilities for future engagement with families and the young people together

## Summary of Findings – Staff Views

- Prevention Officers felt that the work they delivered on managing anger and improving confidence had a significantly positive effect on young people’s lives
- Prevention Officers felt their job role is one of the main reasons for the success with engagement with the young people
- Prevention Officers also commented on the benefit of training on trauma-informed approaches
- Prevention Officers said they would benefit from specific training on how they can deliver interventions with young people who have ADHD and autism spectrum conditions
- There was a consensus from Prevention Officers around the benefits of having Youth Advocates supporting them in the past and their want for them to be reintroduced into the programme

# Conclusions and Recommendations

## Key Findings:

- The young people spoken to, their families and external stakeholders have all highlighted **positive impacts in protective factors** for young people including in emotional management, particularly anger, increasing confidence and motivation to engage in education, training, and employment
- The young people particularly linked the positive impacts with the **flexibility and quality of support** they received from the service and the relationship they were able to develop with the Prevention Officers
- This evaluation has **not been able to detect any statistically significant differences** in the number of young people who reoffend, or the total number of offences committed by those who have completed the CRPS when compared to a matched sample

## Considerations:

- Given that 83% of referrals are received following a low-level offence (PCR or O OCD) there are **opportunities to build on prevention** and the development of protective factors that the service offers
- Improvements in the **consistency in the collection of monitoring data** will substantially improve the evidence base, particularly in relation to changes in psycho-social and wellbeing measures for young people
- Consideration should be given to the **use of a validated, scaled tool** for both assessment and review of progress for young people
- There is also opportunity to **review referral routes and acceptance criteria in to the service**. The high number (42%) of young people identified as not suitable for the service suggests there are potentially substantial efficiencies for both the service and for referrers through ensuring a joint understanding of need and what the CRPS can provide
- Given the findings of increased reoffending within certain demographics including young people who are disabled, neurodiverse or have two or more prior offences, **a review of training and packages of support for these cohorts would be useful**