



## 5 Years of the VRN

#5yearsoftheVRN

### Welcome to our newsletter!

It's a particularly important edition as the VRN is five-years old this month! We have been marking our anniversary by reflecting on the last 5 years, highlighting our core purpose, the approach we take to preventing violence and the progress the VRN partnership has made. There is lots feel proud about!

Five years ago, and the first time locally, we adopted a public health approach to tackling violence, a way of working and thinking which was new to many of us. Through this we now share and use data more smartly and ensure we draw on the best available research in designing interventions. Whilst we already had a long history of effective partnership working in our area, the VRN partnership was committed from the outset to ensure we built a wider alliance of groups and organisations knowing this was the only way we could effectively tackle the causes of violence and secure longer-term change. Most importantly, we have developed countless relationships and collaborations with community-based partners. This has significantly strengthened the design, delivery and impact of our various projects and interventions.

It is fantastic to see the positive outcomes being achieved by young people and encouraging to see how this is now translating into reductions in violence. However, the VRN is about securing long-term, sustainable change. The causes of violence are still prevalent locally, nationally and internationally and therefore our work remains as critical and relevant as ever. We still have so much to do. Looking forward, our determination and ambition needs to strengthen further so that we reach all children and young people at risk of violence at the earliest stage possible. In the forthcoming months and years, I look forward to working with current and new partners to build on and extend our mission to keep all children, young people and communities safe.

**Grace Strong, Director of the Violence Reduction Network LLR**



## HOPE HACK UPDATE

On 7th March 2024, the VRN partnered with the Hope Collective and EAVA FM to run our second local Hope Hack. Over 120 young people from communities across LLR came together to discuss issues affecting their community and co-produce solutions. The day was led by young people and included performances, panels, and workshops. At the end of the day, young people presented their solutions back to Senior Leads across the VRN Partnership to influence decision-making across LLR.



## HOPE HACK REIMAGINING POLICING 2024

On 8th July, the VRN partnered with the Hope Collective, National Police Chief's Council and VRUs across the Midlands, Greater Manchester and Lancashire to hold a Hope Hack in Coventry focused around Reimagining Policing. Over 20 young people from Leicestershire joined young people from across the Country to develop solutions for fairer policing and delivered their solutions to Senior Policing Leads across the Country. The day involved performances, panels and workshops led by young people. The Leicestershire young people came from community organisations such as; Go Getta CIC, The Centre Project, St Matthews Big Local, ZamZam Unlimited CIC, The Dialogue Society, SOCOPA, and Limehurst Academy.

To read more about the Hope Hack Reimagining Policing event, click on the links below.

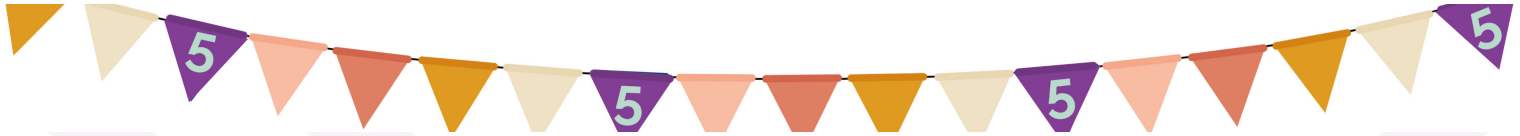
[Link to Website](#)

[Link to press release](#)

## COMING SOON: LIVE SAFE WORKSHOP

The VRN central team have worked in partnership with the LiveSafe Development Group and Community Oversight Group to create a workshop for parents and carers around knife crime. The workshop aims to equip parents and carers with information, tools and resources around the topic including the reasons why young people carry knives, spotting the early signs, having a conversation with their young person, and getting help. The workshop is coming soon - keep an eye on social media and LiveSafe.





## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME SHOWCASE

On 11th July 2024 the VRN and OPCC held a showcase event to celebrate the fourth cohort completing the Community Leadership Programme. The showcase empowered community leaders to deliver a presentation around their leadership journey to an audience consisting of Strategic Partnership Board representatives, their own personal guests and wider VRN partners. The showcase included keynote talks from Deputy Chief Constable David Sandall, VRN Director Grace Strong and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Rani Mahal, and opportunities to network.

This Programme is commissioned by the VRN and OPCC and delivered by Jones Consulting. The Programme provides local community leaders with a free course that enables them to develop their leadership style, knowledge and skills and apply this to their work with the purpose of building stronger and safer communities.

Over the next few months, the cohort consisting of 16 leaders will join the Community Leaders Network and join in to provide peer support and work collaboratively with partners to achieve our shared determination to make our communities safer.

[Link to Website](#)

[Link to press release](#)



Community Leadership Programme Cohort 4  
- 11th July 2024

## REACH UPDATE

On the 18th September, our funding partner the Youth Endowment Fund visited the REACH Programme. REACH places youth workers in secondary schools to mentor and support young people at risk of exclusion and involvement in violence.

Feedback from the team, schools, young people and families is incredibly positive and the outcomes being achieved are so impressive. For more information, click [HERE](#).

