

Hope Hack Comes to Leicester

In October, the VRN ran a **Leicester Hope Hack** bringing together nearly 100 young people aged between 14 and 25 from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The aim of Hope Hack events is to generate solutions which will create a fairer and safer society.

During the event young people led and took part in workshops on different themes relating to the known causes of violence such as 'Poverty and Inequality', 'Racism and Division', 'Mental Health' and 'Access to Opportunities'. Young people then presented their innovative solutions to these challenges to strategic leaders and practitioners.

The event was delivered in collaboration with the Hope Collective which is a national organisation that focuses on co-producing long term solutions that engage young people and communities and influence policy making to affect positive change.



The Leicester Hope Hack will feed into the biggest needs assessment that the UK has ever seen and provide young people with the opportunity to influence change on a national level.

The national 'Reimagined' report due to be published by the [Hope Collective](#) later this year, will include recommendations for policy makers, cross sectors leaders and the Government.

Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme Expands

The MVP programme is currently underway with a fourth wave of secondary schools across LLR. A total of 27 schools are now involved in the MVP programme and there are 7 additional MVP trainers offering support as new schools begin to implement.

Graham Goulden of Cultivating Minds will be delivering an MVP Masterclass in early 2023 and we look forward to congratulating staff and students who have recently completed the MVP programme at a celebratory event later this year.

[Read more](#)

Reach Programme Secures Additional Funding



Following a successful pilot and rigorous independent evaluation, the Reach Programme has received a further investment from the [Youth Endowment Fund \(YEF\)](#). The Reach Programme is an intensive six-month mentoring programme aimed at preventing school exclusions. Working closely with and in schools, a youth worker is allocated to at-risk young people and offers a tailored package of support

This second year of funding has allowed the Reach Programme offer support in an additional eight schools within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, in early January 2023.

[Read more](#)

Community Leadership Programme Goes from Strength to Strength



Following the success of two previous cohorts, a third round of Community Leaders recently started the Community Leadership Programme, The programme, jointly funded by the VRN and the OPCC and delivered by Jones Consulting, takes place over a three month period. During this time Community Leaders learn how to develop their leadership style, knowledge and skills to apply this to their work within communities.

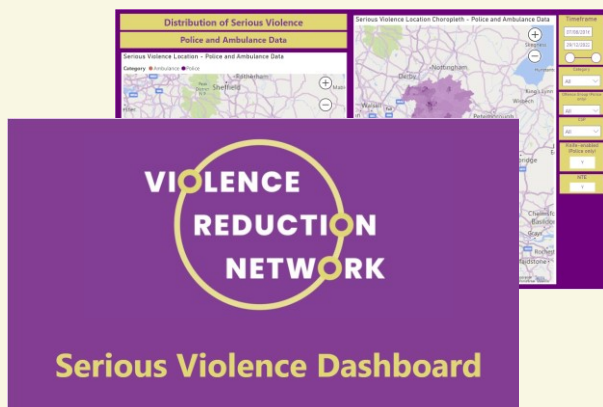
Graduates of the programme continue to meet as the Community Leaders Network (follow them on Twitter [@CLN_LLRL](#)), and two members, Tom Walters and Cheryl Armatrading currently sit on the VRN Board.

[Find out more](#)

VRN Launches Serious Violence Dashboard

Over the past year, the VRN has been working on a **Serious Violence Dashboard** which brings together a wide-range of local data to define the local problem of serious violence and to identify the prevalence of risk and protective factors.

With the support of Leicestershire Police, the VRN has now been able to make the Dashboard available to local partners and Community Safety Partners. They will use the Dashboard to inform the allocation of resources and the design and evaluation of interventions to prevent violence within local areas.



VCSSO Networking Event 2023

The VRN and Community Leaders Network jointly hosted the first VCSSO networking event since the start of the Covid pandemic. The event, held with the support of Leicester City in the Community, took place at the home of Leicester City Football Club, the King Power Stadium and focussed in part of the Serious Violence Duty. Delegates heard from Tom Walters and Harvinder Poonian (Community Leaders Network), Grace



Strong (LLR VRN Strategic Director) and Sara Featherstone (Home Office, Serious Violence Unit) ahead of engaging in round table discussions reflecting on progress of the partnership so far and suggestions for the future. Following a networking lunch delegates took part in a range of workshops including 'What works in Preventing Serious Violence', 'Being Trauma Informed' and 'The Impact of Parental Imprisonment'.

The themes emerging from roundtable discussions will be included in the forthcoming refreshed Response Strategy for 2023 and we hope to hold a further VCSSO event in 2023.

VRN Invests in Sports and ETE Support

The VRN has teamed up with two local organisations to further strengthen the partnership’s strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence by tackling its root causes. Leicester City in the Community is leading a new sports and physical activity programme and Leicestershire Cares is leading an innovative education, training and employment initiative.



Both programmes aim to build on established successful programmes which support young people who are at risk of or involved in violence by providing tailored one to one and group support to build tangible skills as well as their confidence and self-esteem.



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‘Make a Stand Against Violence’ Campaign Wins Award

We were thrilled when our partners at Hitch Marketing won an #UnAward 2022 for the ‘Best work by an agency/freelancer’ with the ‘Make A Stand Against Violence’ campaign.

The campaign, which is hosted on the www.Livesafe.org.uk website, has achieved over two million impressions on social media; over 18,000+ genuine clicks on social advertising; over 5,000 unique visitors to the website; over 270,000 views on YouTube; and 246,000 genuine impressions of the radio advert at a 95% listen through rate.

We are currently working with local schools to promote the ‘Make A Stand Against Violence’ campaign in educational settings and hope to roll out this out across LLR in 2023.

[Watch here](#)

New Addition to the VRN Team

Claire Vanneck has joined the VRN team as our new Communications and Campaigns Officer.



Claire has previous campaign experience whilst working as an Event Manager in the Night-Time Economy and was a Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Leicester prior to joining the VRN team.

Claire will be responsible for devising, developing and delivering internal and external communications strategies that promote and enhance the activities of the VRN.

Trauma Informed LLR

The VRN website is undergoing development as part of our aim to become a trauma informed Leicestershire. Co-developed with our partners at Barnardo’s, the new web pages will host a range of resources including training videos, an area for Community Champions and useful readings and will go live in March 2023.

As part of this commitment we continue to offer three levels of Trauma Informed Training for practitioners and managers working within services who support children, adults, families and communities within LLR.



[Book here](#)

Useful Resources

The VRN website includes a range of useful links relating to serious violence and what works in preventing and reducing its occurrence. The most recent addition to our Resources section is the latest guidance on the Serious Violence Duty recently published by the Home Office.

[See more](#)