

The logo features a large purple circle on the left side of the page. Inside this circle, a yellow circle is partially visible, overlapping the text. The text 'VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters, with the yellow circle passing through the letters 'O' in 'VIOLENCE', 'O' in 'REDUCTION', and 'O' in 'NETWORK'.

**VIOLENCE  
REDUCTION  
NETWORK**

**Serious Violence  
Strategic Needs  
Assessment**

**Executive Summary**

**2024 - 2025**

**#PreventionThroughConnection  
@VR\_Network**

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The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) produces a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) on an annual basis to provide a comprehensive assessment of serious violence across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). This document is a publicly accessible summary aimed at providing an overview of the main findings and recommendations.

The aim of the SNA is to increase understanding of the types, distribution and extent of serious violence in the local area and to help local partners to identify the people and groups who are most vulnerable to being or becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. The full SNA should be used to inform strategic planning including resource allocation.

The definition of serious violence used within the SNA is the one adopted by the VRN partnership which is:

*“Violence resulting in significant physical injury and other serious harm, including sexual violence. Violence may be committed with or without weapons, and may take place in domestic or public places.”*

## SERIOUS VIOLENCE DEFINITION

### ALL SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCE TYPES

#### HOMICIDE:

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Corporate Manslaughter
- Infanticide

#### ROBBERY:

- Robbery of Business Property
- Robbery of Personal Property

#### ARSON:

- Arson – Endangering Life

#### VIOLENCE WITH INJURY:

- Attempted Murder
- Cause or Allow Death or Serious Physical Harm to Child or Vulnerable Person
- Assault with Intent to Cause Serious Harm
- Endangering Life
- Assault with Injury
- Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault with Injury

#### VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY:

- Threats to Kill
- Kidnapping and False Imprisonment
- Modern Slavery

#### STALKING AND HARRASSMENT:

- Harassment
- Racially or Religiously Aggravated Harassment
- Malicious Communications
- Stalking
- Controlling or Coercive Behaviour

#### SEXUAL OFFENCES:

- Rape
- Other Sexual Offences

#### MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY:

- Exploitation of Prostitution

#### PUBLIC DISORDER:

- Affray/Offences Against State
- Violent Disorder

#### BURGLARY:

- Burglary – Residential (Home) (Aggravated Only)
- Burglary – Residential (Unconnected Building) (Aggravated Only)
- Burglary – Business and Community (Aggravated Only)

The SNA aligns with the World Health Organization’s four-step process for implementing a public health approach to violence which includes:

1. Defining the local problem of serious violence through systematic data collection
2. Identifying the risk and protective factors through evidence and research
3. Developing and evaluating interventions
4. Scaling up effective policy and programmes



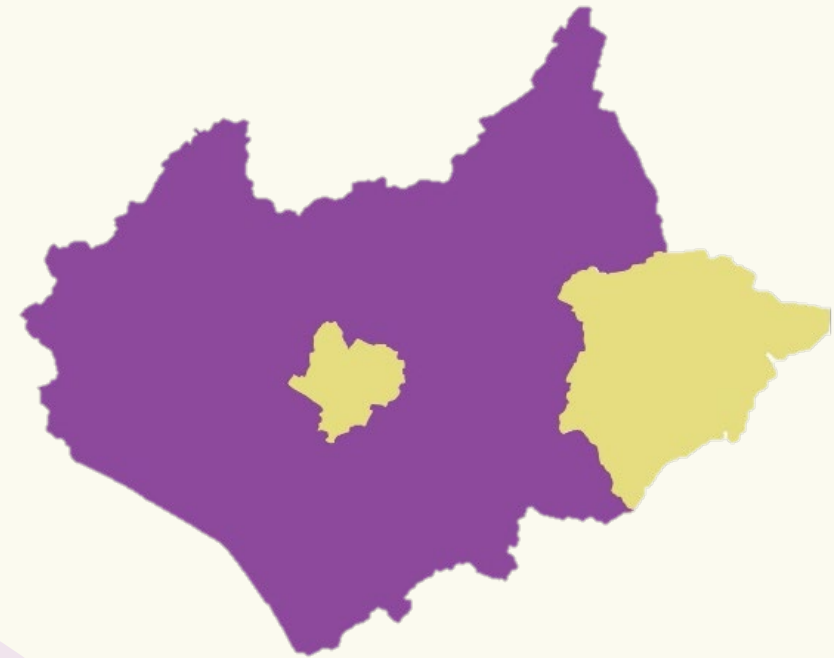
The following data sources are used in this document:

- **Police data** – Leicestershire Police recorded crime
- **Healthcare data** – Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (A&E attendances and hospital admissions) and the East Midlands Ambulance Service
- **Social care data** – Leicester City Council
- **Education data** – Leicester City Council and partial dataset from Leicestershire County Council
- **National data** – Data from the Department for Education, Public Health Profiles and the Office for National Statistics
- **Community and young person insights** – An LLR Community Safety Survey administered in 2022 and an LLR Young People’s Safety Survey conducted in 2021

## Population Profile of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

- Leicestershire and Rutland are counties within the East Midlands with approximately 1.12 million residents
- The main urban area in Leicestershire is the City of Leicester
- There are significant cultural, economic and political disparities between the more rural areas of Leicestershire and Rutland and the urban and densely populated city of Leicester
- Almost 60% of Leicester’s population are from a minority ethnic background compared to less than 13% of Leicestershire’s and 5% of Rutland’s population

- Leicester has a comparatively younger population than the national average largely as a result of have two universities situated in the City. This is similar to Charnwood in Leicestershire which is also home to a university
- Leicester is the 10th largest city in England and the most populous urban centre in the East Midlands
- Out of 151 local authorities, Leicester ranks 19<sup>th</sup>, Leicestershire 137<sup>th</sup> and Rutland 149<sup>th</sup> on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation



*Map of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland*

# Profile of Serious Violence

The vast majority of residents in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) have not directly experienced serious violence over the past four years. However, serious violence is not distributed evenly across the population and significant inequalities exist. Certain groups and geographical areas within LLR are at much higher risk of exposure to and involvement in serious violence.

Understanding the local profile of serious violence is key to ensuring that responses are targeted and tailored in a way which tackles disparities and secures sustainable reductions.

**2.9% of LLR residents were a victim and 2.3% were a perpetrator of serious violence in the last 18 months**

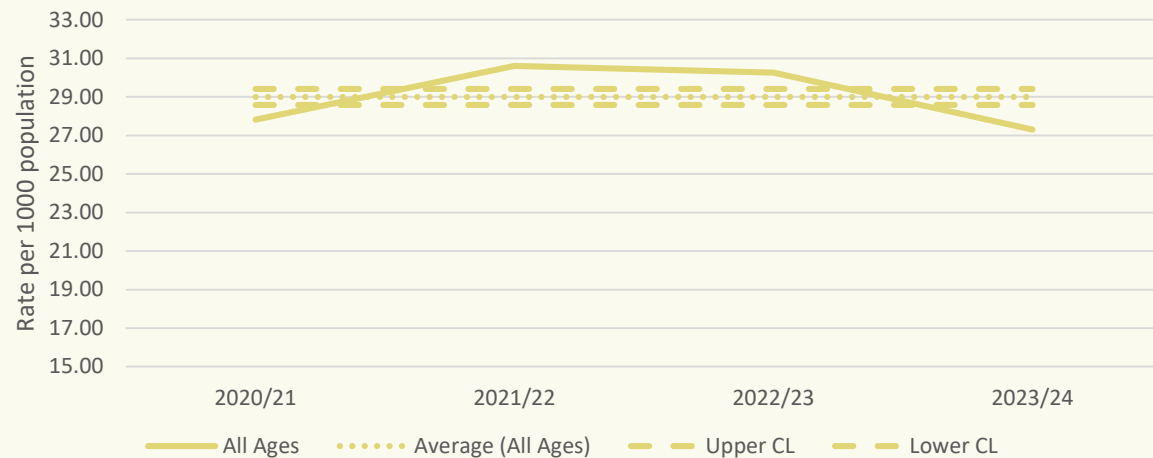
National data highlights that Leicestershire is ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of all force areas for having the greatest rates of ‘Violence with Injury’ offences in 2023/24.

In 2023/24 there were 969 assault-related attendances to A&E recorded for residents from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (a decrease of 3.4%) and 176 assault-related hospital admissions (an increase of 9.3%). Rates for patients under 25 and 25-40 are very similar.

Data from the ambulance service shows that almost 90% of call-outs were linked to a ‘penetrating’ injury, and 49.0% of assault-related ambulance call-outs resulted in conveyance to hospital.

## Extent of Serious Violence

In the 18 months between April 2023 - September 2024, there were 44,373 serious violence offences recorded by Leicestershire Police. When looking at the last complete financial year, 2023/24, Leicestershire Police recorded 30,633 serious violence offences, which is a decrease of 9.8% compared to the previous financial year (2022/23).



Rate (per 1000 population) of all reported serious violence offences across LLR (2020/22 - 2023/24)  
(Source: Leicestershire Police)

## Nature of Serious Violence

‘Stalking and Harassment’ shows the highest rate and is closely followed by ‘Violence with Injury’, making up 38.8% and 37.4% respectively.

Looking at specific offence types, ‘Assault - S47 – AOABH assault occasioning actual bodily harm’ (ABH) (30.3%), ‘S2 – harassment without violence’ (14.9%) and ‘Send grossly offensive/indecent communication to cause distress or anxiety’ (6.8%) make up the greatest volume.

Comparing the offence breakdown for October 23 – September 24 against October 22 – September 23, Increases have been observed with ‘Robbery of Business Property, and ‘Robbery of Personal Property’ (111.6% (note: low volumes), and 8.7% respectively).

**31% of all serious violence was domestic-abuse related, 24% was public place violence, and 10% constituted sexual violence.**

# Profile of Serious Violence

Rates of high-harm offences – such as homicide, grievous bodily harm and robbery for under 25s are 2.7 times greater than the rates for over 25s

The majority of violent offences did not involve a weapon. Police data indicates that just 5% of serious violence involved a knife or sharp object with 61% of offences occurring in Leicester City (April 23 - September 24).

The table below shows the rate (per 1000 population) of the five most frequent diagnosis descriptions for assault-related admissions for LLR residents.

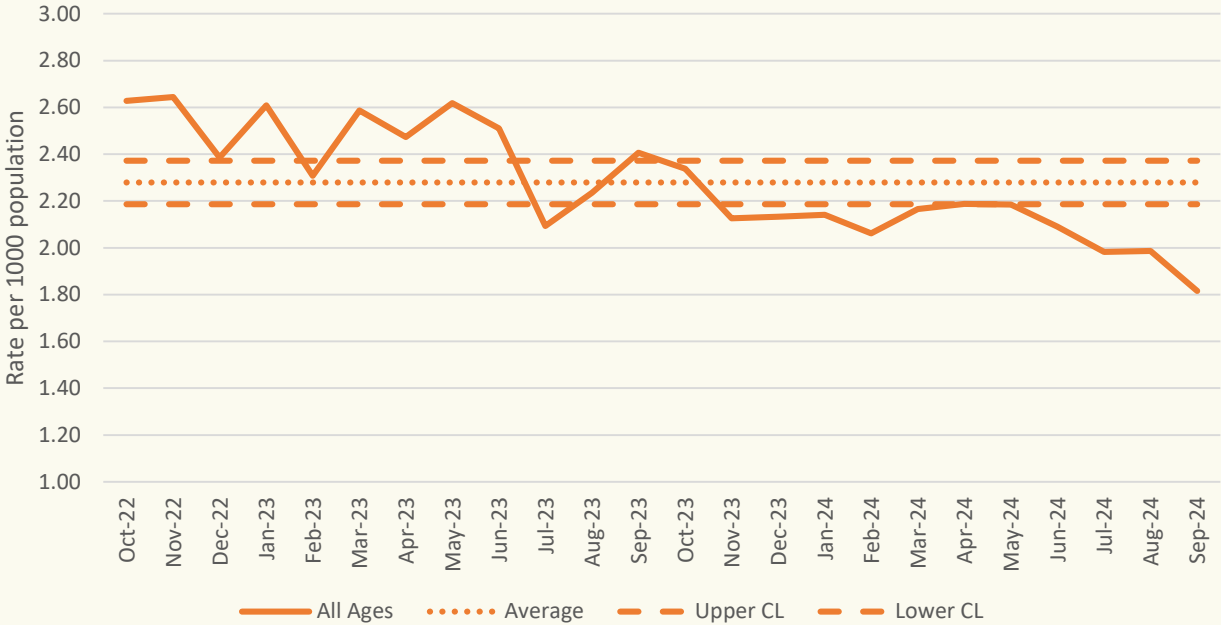
Diagnosis Group	Rate per 1000 population
Assault by bodily force	0.083
Assault by sharp object	0.033
Assault by unspecified means	0.016
Assault by other specified means	0.012
Assault by blunt object	0.004

The data also shows that from April 2023 to March 2024 the length of the stay in hospital ranged from 0 – 7 days, with the majority of patients staying for five or less days, with the mean number of days stayed being 4.4. The average cost per inpatient is approximately £2452.

Data from the ambulance service also provides insights into the nature of violence. For instance, almost 90% of call-outs were linked to a ‘penetrating’ injury and when looking at all assault-related ambulance call-outs, 49.0% resulted in conveyance to hospital.

## Timings

The chart below shows the trend in serious violence over the four-year period of October 2022 to September 2024 for offences involving all ages.



Rate (per 1000 population) of serious violence across LLR (October 2022 – September 2024) (Source: Leicestershire Police)

The chart highlights a higher average rate of offences over the spring months over the last 2 years, and the summer months observed the lowest average rate per 1000 in the last 2 years.

A&E data has shown a downward trend in the last 24 months, whilst Hospital data has increased, with lower volumes recorded and greater fluctuation.

While there has been fluctuation, the last 12-18 months of data has shown a downward trend with September 2024 reporting the lowest volumes in the chart

# Profile of Serious Violence

Both police and health data show similar trends with increased levels of serious violence at the weekend (and Monday for police data). Monday and Tuesday were the peak days for under 25s.

Focusing on the peak times:

- Police data shows serious violence is most frequently committed in the afternoon through to the late evening.
- The most prevalent time of the day for under 25s is 15:00-15:59. This is consistent with previous SNA findings and coincides with the end of the school day.
- 7% of all serious violence, and over a quarter of public-place violence, was committed in the night-time economy (22:00-04:59)
- A&E attendances have a higher rate between the hours of 13:00-13:59, 18:00-18:59, 20:00-20:59, and 21:00-21:59.
- Ambulance data reveals a peak between 21:00-21:59 with a general increase in rates between 18:00-00:59.

## Preventing Serious Violence After-School

*This section has been developed based upon a deep-dive of crime data on serious violence which took place between 3-4pm and focuses on offences where the victim or suspected perpetrator is aged under 18.*

The most common offence groups committed by under 18s between 3-4pm were:

- Assault with Injury (78%)**
- Robbery of Personal Property (10%)**

The data shows a greater distribution of offences during the week (**Monday – Friday**) compared to the weekend with the daily proportions seen on a weekday being approximately **three times** the proportions seen at the weekend

West Leicester, East Leicester, Hinckley & Blaby and Charnwood make up the greatest proportion of offences at this time of day

In 2023, peak months of **March** and **June** were identified, with a notable decrease seen over the summer months (July – August 2023)

Peak ages of victims and suspects/offenders: **12 – 15 years**

**69%** of suspects/offenders were **male**

Victims and suspects/offenders were most likely to reside in **West Leicester, East Leicester, Charnwood and Hinckley & Blaby**

**67%** of victims were **male**

## Violence in the Night-Time Economy (NTE)

*This section has been developed based upon a deep-dive of police data on public place serious violence in the night-time economy (NTE) using police data. This included offence committed between 22:00 and 04:59 between April 2023 to September 2024.*

The most common offences in the NTE are:

- Assault with Injury (66%)**
- Affray/Offences against State (17%)**
- Robbery of Personal Property (10%)**

Victims were most likely to live in **West Leicester (16%)**, **Charnwood (14%)** and **Hinckley and Blaby (14%)**. More specifically, victims commonly reside in New Parks, Westcotes, Stoneygate, Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Riverside, and Hinckley Greater.

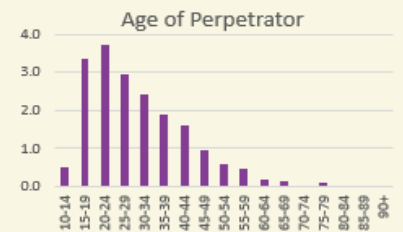
**Almost 70% of victims are male**

Peak ages of victims are between **18 – 21**

**27%** of offences take place on a **Sunday** followed by **Saturday (25%)** and **Friday (15%)**

**22:00 – 01:59** is the peak time

**Almost eight in ten** perpetrators in the NTE are **male**



The majority of perpetrators came from **West Leicester (18%)**, followed by **Charnwood (16%)** and **East Leicester (13%)**. More specifically, perpetrators most commonly reside in New Parks, Riverside, Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Enderby & Narborough, Whitwick & Ibstock, and Eyres Monsell.

# Profile of Serious Violence

## Geography of Serious Violence

Leicester saw the highest rate and volume of serious violence, and is double the rate seen in Leicestershire. By district/borough area, Charnwood saw the highest volume and North West Leicestershire saw the highest rate despite making up only 7.9% of the LLR total.

Area	Rate per 1000 population	% of LLR total
LLR	39.6	100.0%
Leicestershire	29.9	47.9%
Leicester	55.6	46.2%
Charnwood	32.3	13.4%
Hinckley and Bosworth	32.9	8.4%
North West Leicestershire	33.7	7.9%
Blaby	24.2	5.6%
Harborough	22.2	4.9%
Oadby and Wigston	32.0	4.2%
Melton	30.2	3.5%
Rutland	20.5	1.9%

*Rate (per 1000 population) and proportion of serious violence offences across LLR and district/borough areas (April 2023 – September 2024) (Source: Leicestershire Police)*

Looking at the Leicestershire Police Neighbourhood Policing Areas, 14.8% of all serious violence across LLR occurred in East Leicester, closely followed by Hinckley and Blaby (14.6%), West Leicester (14.2%) and Charnwood (13.9%). More specifically, the highest density of offences were seen in City Centre, New Parks, Braunstone & Rowley Fields, Whitwick & Ibstock, Beaumont Leys, and Cultural Quarter.

61.0% of serious violence occurred in a dwelling, followed by 23.6% in a public/open place (e.g. street, park etc), hospitality (4.1%) and education settings (2.5%).

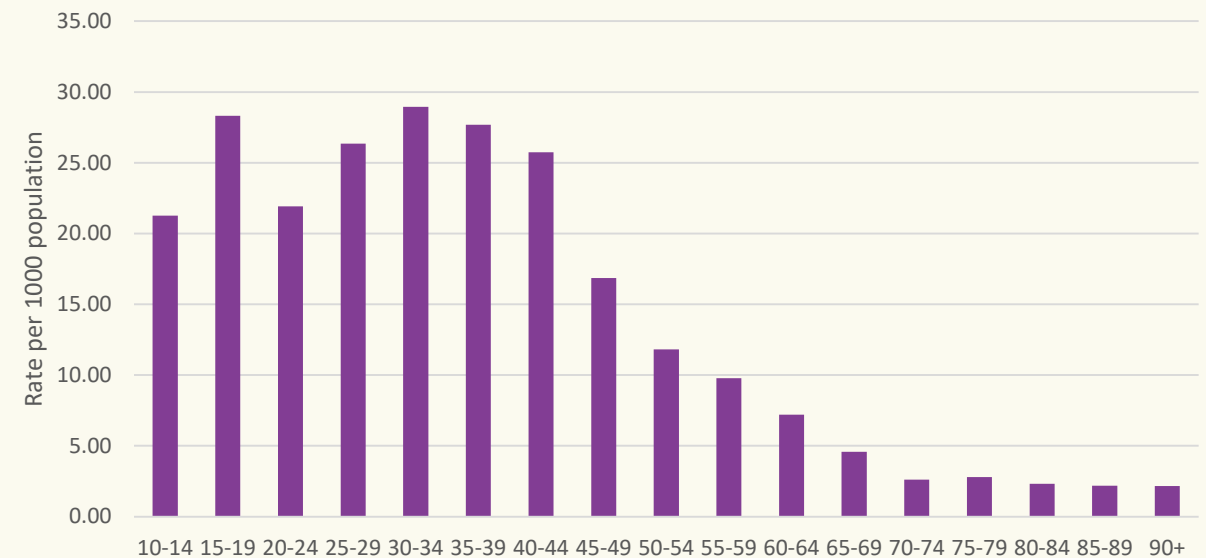
## Perpetrators

The vast majority of people in LLR are not involved in serious violence, with 2.3% of the LLR population being perpetrators of serious violence.

Those aged under 45 are most likely to be perpetrators of serious violence, with the rates increasing between each group to a peak seen for those aged 30-34 years old, closely followed by 15-19, indicating that these groups are most likely to be involved in serious violence.

The data also highlights that those aged 10-19 commit the greatest rates of public place violence and sexual violence.

**Under 25s contributed to 32% of serious violence between April 23 - September 24**



*Rate (per 1000 population) of offences by suspected perpetrator age (at date of offence) of serious violence based on those residing in LLR (April 2023 – September 2024) (Source: Leicestershire Police)*



# Profile of Serious Violence

The majority of offenders are male (70%). Male perpetration is most likely to involve a male victim. Males are considerably more likely to be involved in higher harm offences.

Over three-quarters were identified as White, followed by smaller proportions who were categorised as Asian (13.9%), Black (6.9%), Mixed (3.0%) and Other (1.8%).

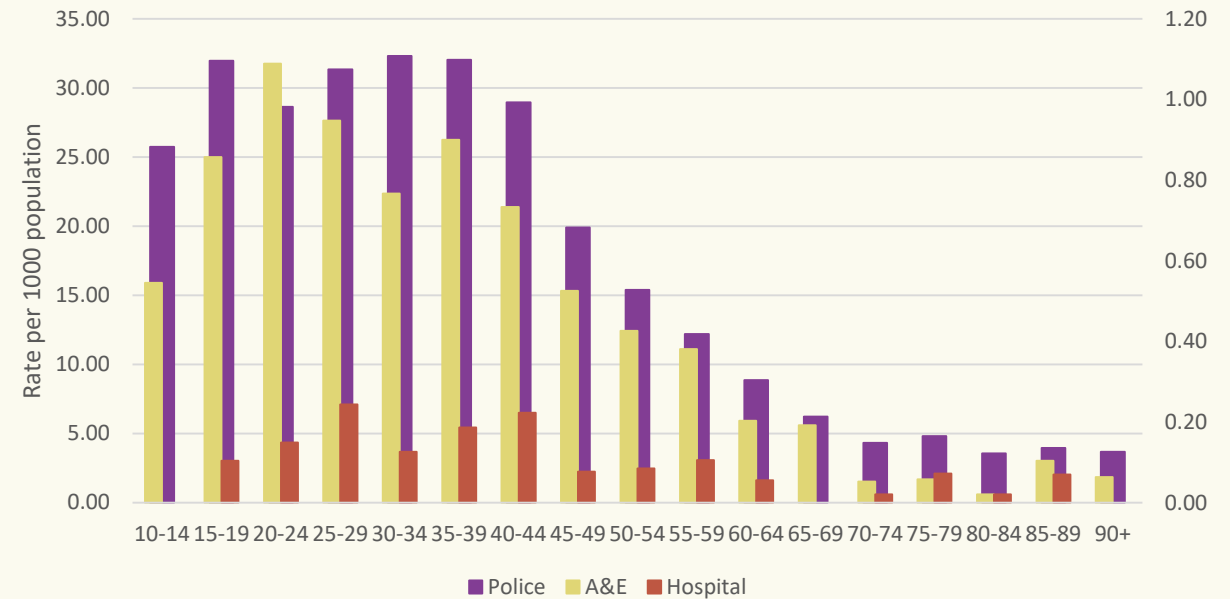
Data highlights that the highest volume of suspected perpetrators reside on West Leicester with the most common beats being New Parks, Braunstone & Rowley Fields, Abbey, and Beaumont Leys. Other areas across LLR which report the highest number of suspected perpetrators are Eyres Monsell (South Leicester), Whitwick & Ibstock (North West Leicestershire), Market Bosworth (Hinckley & Bosworth), Loughborough North (Charnwood) and Syston (Charnwood).

## Cohort Analysis: Perpetrators of Knife-enabled Violence (U25)

- 90% of suspects/perpetrators were male
- Over three-quarters of offences occurred in Leicester City
- The age of suspects/offenders peaks at 16 – 17 years old
- The greatest proportion of suspects/offenders lived in West Leicester and East Leicester
- 54% of suspects had previously been a victim, and over
- 1/3 had witnessed or experienced domestic abuse
- 41% of victims were a stranger to the perpetrator
- A third of the cohort had flags for mental-health related concerns

## Victims

Police data shows that 30-34 year olds are most at risk of being a victim of serious violence across LLR, it is also important to note that those aged 15-19 report similar rates. When analysing health data, those aged 20-24 have the highest rates of A&E attendances and for hospital admissions, smaller rates were observed but the peak was identified with those aged 25-29, closely followed by 40-44.



Rate (per 1000 population) of victims of serious violence offences or assault-related injuries based on LLR residents by age - police recorded crime, assault-related A&E attendances and hospital admissions (April 2023 – September 2024) (Source: Leicestershire Police and Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit)

Females are most likely to be the victim of serious violence based upon police data (55.0%) but health data suggests males are at greater risk (72.7%).

Over three quarters of victims were identified as White (77.4%), followed by smaller proportions who were categorised as Asian (14.1%), Black (7.4%) and Mixed (3.9%).

It is important to understand the differences in the person profiles when looking at different forms of violence (e.g. domestic abuse, public place etc). An overview of the key findings from each chapter in the SNA has been summarised on the next page.

	All Serious Violence	Public Place Serious Violence	Domestic Abuse	Sexual Violence	Violence Involving Young People
Extent	Serious violence has <b>decreased</b> by 15% compared to the previous 12 months. <b>decreases</b> in attendances to A&E and <b>increases</b> in hospital admissions were also observed.	Serious violence has <b>decreased</b> by 10% compared to the previous 12 months	Domestic abuse has <b>decreased</b> by 10% compared to the previous 12 months	Sexual violence has <b>decreased</b> by 9% compared to the previous 12 months	Serious violence involving young people has <b>decreased</b> by 11% compared to the previous financial year
Nature	<b>Actual Bodily Harm (ABH)</b> is the most common offence type. <b>Robbery offences</b> have <b>increased</b> . Majority of hospital admissions were caused by <b>assault by bodily force</b> , followed by assault by sharp object	<b>Assault with Injury</b> makes up the greatest proportion of offences in 2023/24 with 87% categorised as <b>Actual Bodily Harm</b> offences. <b>9%</b> of public place serious violence offences <b>involved a knife or sharp object</b> .	' <b>Assault with Injury</b> ' shows the highest rate closely followed by 'Stalking and Harassment'.  <b>Over a quarter</b> of offences were flagged as involving alcohol.	' <b>Sexual Assault on a Female</b> ' made up the greatest proportion of offences in the last 18 months, followed by ' <b>Rape of Female Over 16</b> ', and ' <b>Exposure</b> '.	<b>Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)</b> makes up the greatest proportion of offences in the last 18 months and is followed by ' <b>S2 – harassment without violence</b> ' and ' <b>send grossly offences/indecent communication to cause distress or anxiety</b> ' <b>9%</b> of offences involving under 25s involved a knife or sharp object, increasing to 12% in public places.
Timings	Higher average rate of offences over the <b>Spring months</b> . Volume of offences throughout the week are relatively stable, with slightly higher rates at the <b>weekend</b> and <b>on Mondays</b> . Increases seen from <b>afternoon</b> onwards (particularly Mon – Fri) and increase over the <b>weekend evenings</b> (NTE).	Higher average rate of offences over <b>Spring months</b> , peaking in <b>May and June</b> . Rates of public place violence are highest at the <b>weekends</b> (Fri – Sun), with a peak on <b>Saturday</b> Greater rate of offences between Friday evening to Saturday morning and Saturday evening to Sunday morning (NTE)	Rate of offences typically peaks in <b>January</b> . Rates are higher over the <b>weekend and Mondays</b> , peaking on <b>Sunday</b> . Higher rate of offences between <b>10am – 1am</b> with the greatest density on <b>Saturdays between 00:00 – 00:59</b>	Fluctuation over the last 2 years with no clear trends identified, with the exception of a <b>peak in January 2022</b> . Across the week, rate of sexual violence is relatively stable with a notable peak on <b>Saturday, followed by Monday</b> .	Distribution of offences throughout the week is relatively stable, with slightly higher rates observed on <b>Monday</b> and <b>Tuesday</b> . Health data identifies a clear peak on <b>Sunday</b> . Greater rates between <b>Monday and Friday at 3pm</b>
Distribution	Rate of offences in the <b>City</b> is almost double the County. Priority areas: <b>West Leicester, East Leicester, Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> and <b>Charnwood</b> . Almost 2/3 of offences occurred in a <b>dwelling</b> , followed by public/open place and hospitality.	Rate of offences in <b>City</b> is 2.5 times that of County Priority areas: <b>Central Leicester, West Leicester, East Leicester, Charnwood</b> and <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> . Almost 2/3 of offences occurred in a <b>public/open place</b> , followed by hospitality and shop settings.	Almost half of domestic abuse offences occurs in the <b>City</b> . Priority areas: <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby, East Leicester</b> and <b>West Leicester</b> . Almost <b>90%</b> occurred in a <b>dwelling</b> , followed by public/open place and hospitality settings.	Almost half of sexual violence in LLR occurred in the <b>City</b> . <b>Central Leicester</b> observes the greatest proportion of offences, followed by <b>West Leicester</b> , and <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> . 60% of offences occurred in a <b>dwelling</b> .	Rate in the <b>City</b> is 1.5 times that of the County. <b>West Leicester</b> reported the greatest proportion, closely followed by <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby, Charnwood</b> , and <b>East Leicester</b> . Almost 60% of offences occurred in a <b>dwelling</b> .
Perpetrators	Peak age: <b>45 and under</b> , peaking at <b>30 – 34</b> Gender: <b>Males</b> perpetrate the majority of serious violence and are more likely to commit high-harm offences. Majority of perpetrators <b>White</b> and reside in <b>West Leicester</b> , followed by <b>East Leicester, Charnwood</b> , and <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b>	Peak age: <b>10 – 19 years old</b> . Gender: Over three-quarters are <b>male</b> . Majority of perpetrators are <b>White</b> Residency: <b>West Leicester</b> , followed by <b>East Leicester, Charnwood</b> and <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b>	Peak ages: increase between <b>35-44, peaking at 35-39</b> . Gender: almost three-quarters are <b>male</b> . Ethnicity: majority of perpetrators are <b>White</b> . Residency: <b>East Leicester</b> , followed by <b>West Leicester, Charnwood</b> , and <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> .	Peak ages: <b>10-19 years old</b> Gender: 85% are <b>male</b> Ethnicity: majority of perpetrators are <b>White</b> Residency: <b>East Leicester</b> , followed by <b>West Leicester, Charnwood</b> and <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> .	Peak ages: <b>15 years old</b> Gender: over two-thirds <b>male</b> Ethnicity: majority of perpetrators are <b>White</b> Residency: <b>West Leicester, Charnwood, East Leicester</b> and <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b>
Victims	Peak ages: <b>30 to 34-years old</b> (Police data) and <b>20-24</b> (health data). 55% of victims are <b>female</b> . Ethnicity: Minority ethnic communities more prominent in health data compared to police data Residency: <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> , followed by <b>East Leicester, West Leicester</b> and <b>Charnwood</b>	Peak ages: <b>15-19, followed by 10-14</b> Gender: almost two-thirds <b>male</b> Ethnicity: majority of victims are <b>White</b> Residency: <b>West Leicester</b> , followed by <b>Hinckley and Blaby, East Leicester</b> , and <b>Charnwood</b>	Peak ages: <b>30-34 years old</b> . Gender: almost three-quarters <b>female</b> . Ethnicity: majority of victims are <b>White</b> . Residency: <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> , followed by <b>West Leicester, East Leicester</b> , and <b>Charnwood</b> .	Peak ages: <b>10-14 years old</b> , then <b>15-19</b> Gender: over 80% <b>female</b> Ethnicity: majority of victims are <b>White</b> Residency: <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby</b> , followed by <b>West Leicester, Charnwood</b> , and <b>East Leicester</b> .	Peak ages: <b>14 – 15-year olds</b> . Gender: 55% <b>female</b> . Ethnicity: majority of victims are <b>White</b> . Residency: <b>Hinckley &amp; Blaby, West Leicester, Charnwood</b> , and <b>East Leicester</b> .

The SNA examined the known risk and protective factors of serious violence and their prevalence across LLR. The causes of violence are multiple and complex. It is important to understand that there is no single cause of serious violence – it arises from a complex interplay between a wide range of risk factors operating within and across individual, relationship, community and societal domains. The following diagram provides an overview of some of the risk and protective factors across the different domains.

Individual and contextual risk factors occur across an individual's life course and are subject to change. They can be cumulative, additive and sometimes multiplicative in impact. The more risk factors that accumulate in an individual or in a particular setting, the higher the likelihood that the individual will become involved in violence as a victim and/or perpetrator. Importantly, risk factors are not deterministic and should not be used diagnostically at an individual level.

**A risk factor is a characteristic that increases the likelihood of a young person becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence.**

**A protective factor is a characteristic that decreases the likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of youth violence or buffers against the effects of risk factors.**

## Risk and Protective Factors

### Risk Factors

#### Community & Wider Society

- Low social integration and poor social mobility
- Poor access to services
- Access to and misuse of alcohol and/or drugs
- Cultural and social norms supportive of violence
- Harmful gender norms
- Discrimination
- Deprivation

#### Close Relationships

- Exposure to violence
- Family conflict
- Economic stress
- Associating with delinquent peers
- Gang involvement
- Lack of nurturing relationships and environment

#### Individual

- Unemployment
- Low income
- Low educational achievement
- Brain injury
- Social isolation
- Neurodevelopmental needs
- Substance use
- Low self-esteem
- Witnessing violence
- Mental health concerns
- Adverse childhood experiences

### Protective Factors

#### Community & Wider Society

- Economic opportunities
- Community spaces designed to increase visibility, control, access, promote positive reactions and appropriate use
- Residents' willingness to assist each other, and collective views that violence is not acceptable
- Safe recreational areas and community environments
- Access to services and positive activities
- Safe and stable housing
- Community cohesion
- Meaningful employment and training opportunities

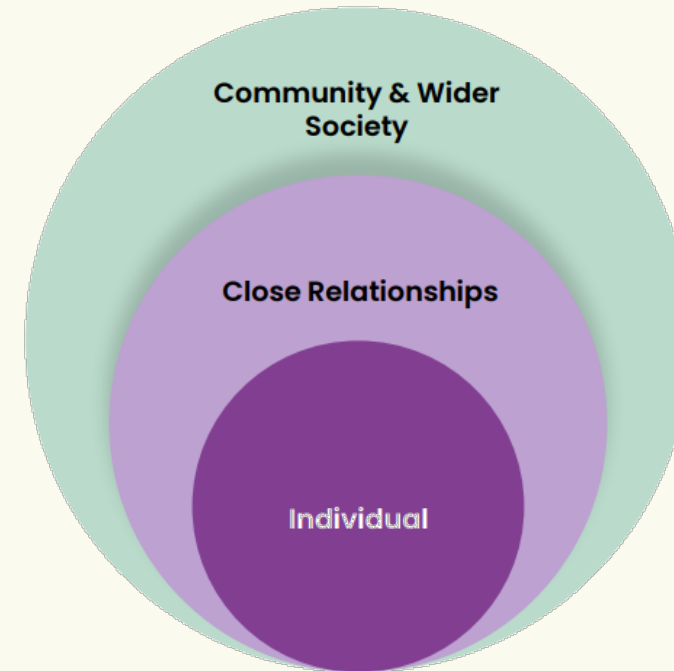
#### Close Relationships

- Relationships with prosocial and non-violent peers
- Stable home environment
- Healthy relationships
- Family support

#### Individual

- Healthy problem-solving
- Emotional regulation skills
- Good communication skills

Adapted from Wales Violence Prevention Unit, 2023



As covered in previous SNAs, the VRN carried out research to examine the prevalence of some of these known risk factors amongst a cohort of children and young adults ( $n=113$ ) from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who had committed high-harm serious violence including Grievous Bodily Harm, Attempt Murder or Murder. This project involved linking data from Leicestershire Police to education and social care data from Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council.

In summary, this research highlighted that this group of children and young adults experienced a wide-range of individual- and relationship-related risk factors. Based on the data available, each individual had an average of 4.8 risk factors recorded and when looking at those who had committed the highest harm offences (Murder & Attempt Murder) the average number of risk factors increased to 5.1.

Analysis revealed that this group of children and young adults were likely to have been a victim of crime before committing one, and to have committed on average 12.2 offences before the most recent serious violence offence. The infographic provides an overview of the crime, education- and social care-related risk factors experienced by this group of children and young adults.



The following provides a summary of the prevalence of key risk factors in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland where we have data available. Rates are compared against the national average.

## LEICESTER

- Amongst the most deprived geographic areas in England and the top 10% for income deprivation affecting children
- Children have poorer SEM health and below the expected level of development and attainment
- Higher rates of young people who are NEET
- Higher rates of children who are looked after
- Higher rates of first-time offenders, and children in the YJS
- Higher rates of dependent drinkers
- Higher rates of children on a child protection plan
- Higher proportion of adults in treatment at specialist drug misuse services
- Higher rates of economic inactivity and unemployment

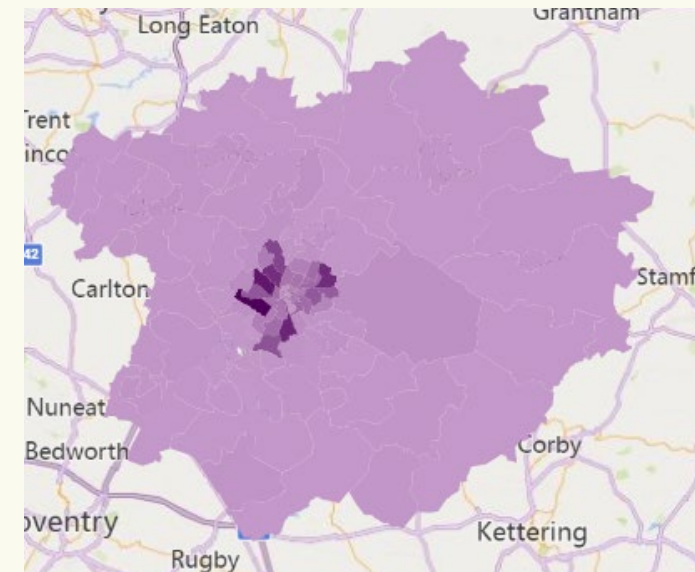
## LEICESTERSHIRE

- Lower rates of children who have reached a good level of development at age 2-2 ½
- Higher rates of children with learning difficulties known to schools

Based upon the data which has been shared with the VRN to date, West Leicester, East Leicester, Charnwood and Hinckley & Blaby are the areas in LLR which have the higher concentration of risk factors. These are also the areas which have the highest rates of serious violence.

More specifically, the following areas are highlighted from the analysis of individual, relationship and community risk factors:

- Braunstone
- Humberstone
- New Parks
- Spinney Hill
- Beaumont Leys
- Loughborough and the surrounding areas
- Hinckley



*Choropleth map by postcode sector of social care and education risk factors experienced by young people in LLR (Source: Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council)*

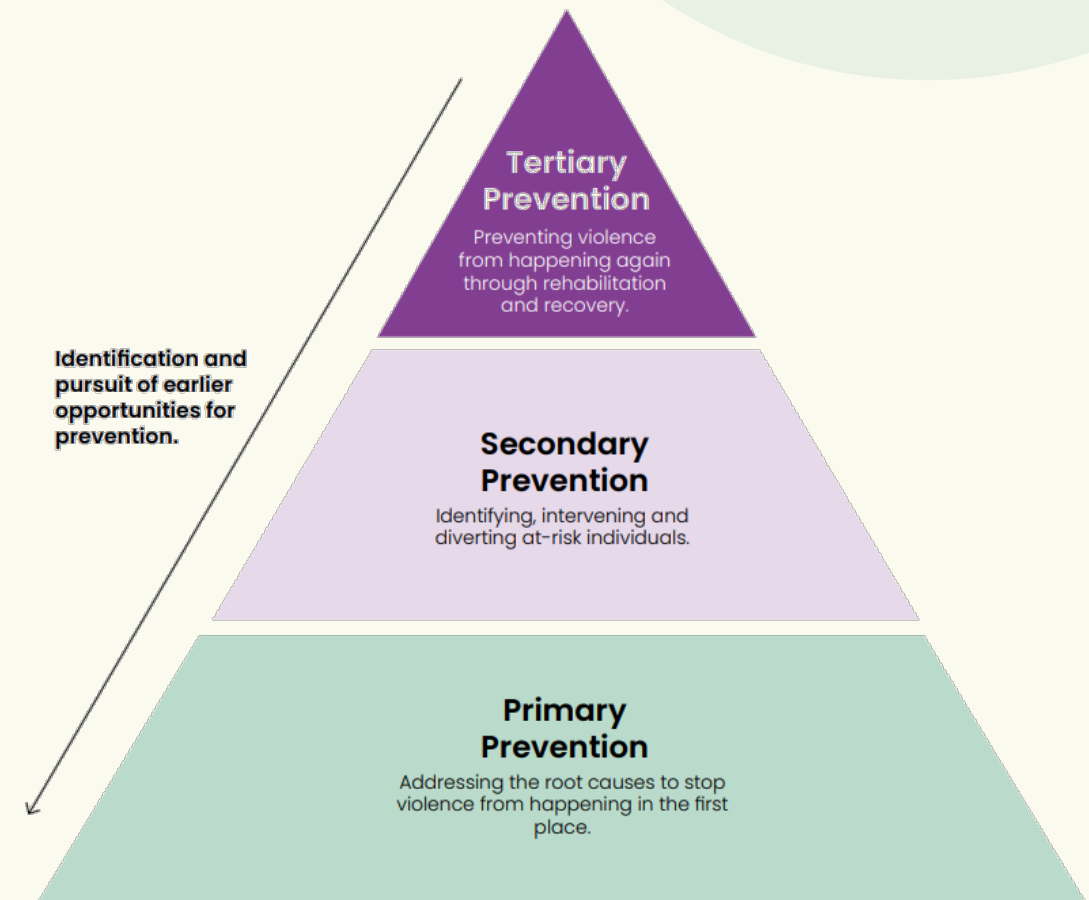
Central to a public health approach is the core belief that violence is preventable; that it is possible to prevent and reduce modifiable risk factors and to strengthen protective factors. The SNA synthesised the growing body of evidence, drawn from research, on the approaches and interventions which have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing and reducing serious violence.

Drawing on resources provided from Public Health England (2019), the VRN has developed a framework to support the design and delivery of comprehensive, evidence-based prevention programmes which tackle the complex and multi-layered nature of risk and protective factors. The 5 C's framework represents the critical building blocks of a violence prevention system and includes:

<b>Community consensus</b>	At the core of an effective approach to preventing violence, local responses should be 'with and for communities' to build trust and confidence and ensure that they are relevant and responsive.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Tackling serious violence requires system thinking and collaboration between a wide-range of groups, organisations and sectors often beyond organisational boundaries.
<b>Co-production</b>	Strategies and interventions should be co-produced with young people, their families and communities.
<b>Co-operation in data</b>	A key enabler to preventing violence is the commitment of organisations to identify, share and analyse all relevant data.
<b>Counter-narrative</b>	Concrete and credible alternatives to involvement in violence are critical as is promoting hope rather than deficit-based approaches which can often perpetuate the problems we're seeking to address.

For prevention activity to be effective in the long-term, it should adopt a life-course approach which considers the critical stages, transitions and settings in which there are opportunities to reduce and manage risk factors and strengthen protective factors.

Preventative strategies and activity should also span the different levels of prevention outlined below with an emphasis on shifting resource increasingly into the primary prevention space:



# Preventing Serious Violence

## Interventions and Approaches

Implementing high quality, evidenced-based interventions is key to preventing and reducing serious violence. The SNA, whilst acknowledging the gaps in the evidence-base, highlighted the strategies and interventions which are most likely to be effective.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (2016) has identified six strategies for preventing violence involving young people which are underpinned by the best available evidence. They are presented alongside the key interventions and approaches which fall within these strategies.

1. **Promote family environments that support health development** – this includes parenting programmes, family nurse partnerships and therapeutic approaches to trauma
2. **Provide quality education in early life** – this includes bullying prevention, school-based programmes and classroom management
3. **Strengthen young people's skills** – this includes universal school programmes (e.g. social skills training) and behavioural / skills-building interventions
4. **Connect young people to trusted adults and activities** – this includes mentoring programmes, after-school programmes and recreational activities
5. **Create protective community environments** – this includes limiting alcohol and weapon access, data sharing, hotspot and problem-solving policing, environmental design and community norm change
6. **Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk** – this includes therapeutic and cognitive-behavioural approaches for perpetrators, hospital-based interventions and substance misuse programmes

The Youth Endowment Fund's (YEF) Toolkit summarises the best available research evidence about different approaches to preventing young people from becoming involved in serious violence.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON VIOLENCE	APPROACHES	EVIDENCE QUALITY	
		Low	High
High	Focused deterrence	██████████	██████████
	Social skills training	██████████	██████████
	Cognitive behaviour therapy	██████████	██████████
	Sport programmes	██████████	██████████
	A&E navigators	██████████	██████████
	Trauma-specific therapies	██████████	██████████
Moderate	Pre-court diversion	██████████	██████████
	Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities	██████████	██████████
	Mentoring	██████████	██████████
	Restorative justice	██████████	██████████
	Hot spots policing	██████████	██████████
	Bystander interventions to prevent sexual assault	██████████	██████████
	Multi-systemic therapy	██████████	██████████
Low	After-school programmes	██████████	██████████
	Interventions to prevent school exclusions	██████████	██████████
	Anti-bullying programmes	██████████	██████████
	Adventure and wilderness therapy	██████████	██████████
	Parenting programmes	██████████	██████████
Unclear	Police in schools	██████████	██████████
	Knife surrender schemes	██████████	██████████
	Media campaigns	██████████	██████████
	Trauma-informed training and service redesign	██████████	██████████
Harmful	Boot camps	██████████	██████████
	Prison awareness programmes	██████████	██████████

*Effectiveness of interventions (Source: Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit)*

The SNA made 12 recommendations for the core membership to consider when refreshing the VRN's Response Strategy. These build on previous SNA recommendations and do not represent a change in focus or direction but rather a strengthening of work underway. However, as our understanding of the data improves and the evidence-base evolves, it is important to ensure that there is sufficient focus on the populations most at risk and that all interventions are developed and delivered in a way which is consistent with the evidence base.

## 1. Data and Insights

- 1a) Continue to improve access to, quality of and use of data from all partners to improve the local understanding of serious violence
- 1b) Extend and advance our data work to support the partnership in identifying the cohorts of young people most at risk of public place violence and the associated risk factors
- 1c) Improve our understanding of how violence is affecting children and young people through designing and rolling out a series of surveys and focus groups

## 2. Partnerships

- 2a) Continue to strengthen and align partnership working in relation to harm outside the home (e.g. public place violence, knife crime, exploitation etc)
- 2b) Continue to broaden the VRN partnership through engaging with new sectors (e.g. business, faith, charitable foundations etc)
- 2c) Utilise the findings of the SNA to inform local mobilisation for changes in Government policy and priorities (e.g. Safer Streets mission: Prevention Partnerships / Youth Hubs)

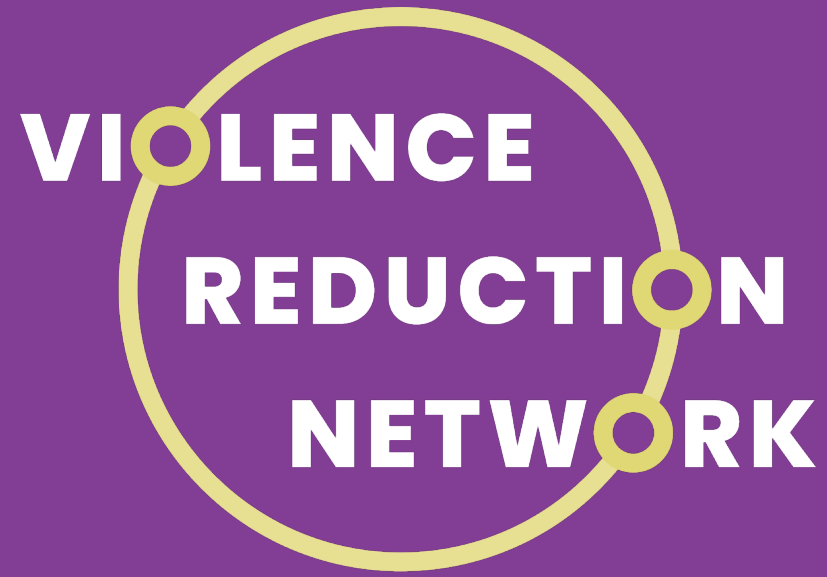
## 3. Interventions

- 3a) Review new and emerging evidence, and undertake local gap analysis to identify how our prevention and early intervention and diversion strategies can be strengthened
- 3b) Consider and implement findings and recommendations from independent evaluations (e.g. Violence Intervention Project, The Reach Programme, The Phoenix Programme) with a view to continuous improvement and securing sustainability
- 3c) Undertake a rapid review of the partnership response to preventing and reducing robberies and identify and pursue opportunities to strengthen it
- 3d) Consider how the partnership can prevent or mitigate the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people, thereby preventing the likely of future offending / victimisation

## 4. Evaluation

- 4a) Widen the monitoring, learning and evaluation framework into wider partnership initiatives including an evaluation model for community-based projects
- 4b) Evaluate MVP and consider how the bystander methodology can be transferred into other settings





LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE  
& RUTLAND

If you would like to find out more about the Violence Reduction Network, you can contact us at:

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You can also find details of our work at:

[www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk](http://www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk)

You can keep up-to-date with VRN developments at:

[@VR\\_Network](https://twitter.com/VR_Network)