

About the Violence Reduction Network

About Us

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is a wide alliance of groups, communities and organisations from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). We share the common goal of reducing and preventing serious violence through understanding and tackling its root causes. It was established in 2019 by Leicestershire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Lord Willy Bach and is one of eighteen Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in England and Wales funded through Home Office grants.

Our Vision

We believe violence is preventable.

Our vision is for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to be a place where people can lead their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.

Our Mission

Our mission is to achieve '**prevention through connection**' by building an inclusive, collaborative and courageous network which will drive the short and long-term change required to successfully tackle the causes and consequences of violence.

Our Role

The core function of the VRN is to offer leadership, establish a core membership and, working with all relevant agencies operating locally, provide strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence.

Leadership for the VRN is provided by the Violence Reduction Board comprising of senior leaders from local authorities, health, fire, schools, the police and crime commissioner and his office, police, youth justice, prisons, probation and the voluntary and community sector. The Board is supported by a Serious Violence Delivery Group and Community Panels. There is also a VRN Central Team

The VRN Team

The role of the VRN Team is to:

- Lead the implementation of the Response Plan.
- Champion the VRN's vision, core principles and the Prevention Framework including supporting its application to other types of violence.
- Co-ordinate and promote strategic messaging and campaigns around serious violence.
- Ensure young people and communities are fully involved in the Network.
- Generate and provide multi-agency data products, including management information for the Board, and develop the necessary information sharing infrastructure.
- Provide strategic co-ordination of serious violence prevention activity, improving consistency with the evidence-base and reducing duplication.
- Generate and cascade resources including providing briefings on the findings from needs assessments, the evidence base and relevant local and national developments.
- Support organisations, other Boards and partners to strengthen their violence prevention offer.
- Design, test and evaluate new interventions.
- Promote and embed the Network within partnership and community arenas to broaden membership and reach.

For further information: www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk
Follow us: @VR_Network **Contact us:** vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Our Focus

We have adopted the World Health Organisation’s (2002) broad definition of violence:

‘... the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person or against a group that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.’

However, in 2020/21 we are focusing on **serious violence in public places** with an initial priority focus on under 25s.

**VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK
SERIOUS VIOLENCE DEFINITION**

Public place violence resulting in significant physical injury with or without weapons

with the inclusion of all ages

Crime groups:

- Homicide
- Violence with Injury
- Robbery

Initial priority focus:

Serious violence by or against a person under 25 years.

Exclusion of sexual violence and/or serious violence in domestic settings, including domestic abuse.

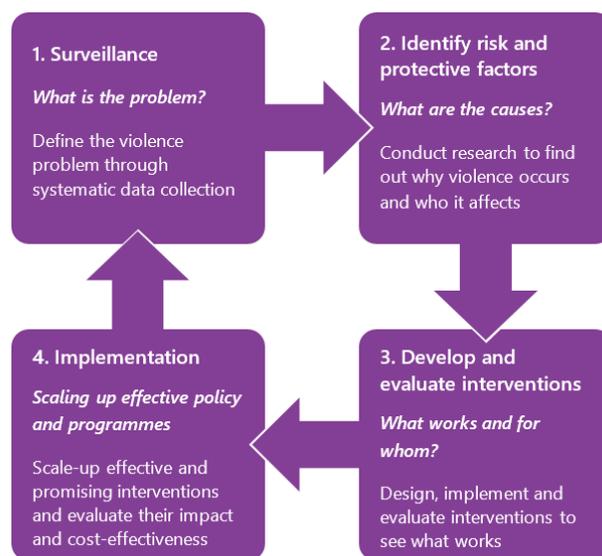
Home Office Counting Rules Crime Types:

- | Murder | Manslaughter | Attempt Murder |
- | Assault with Intent to Cause Serious Harm | Endangering Life |
- | Assault with Injury | Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault with Injury |
- | Robbery of Business Property | Robbery of Personal Property |

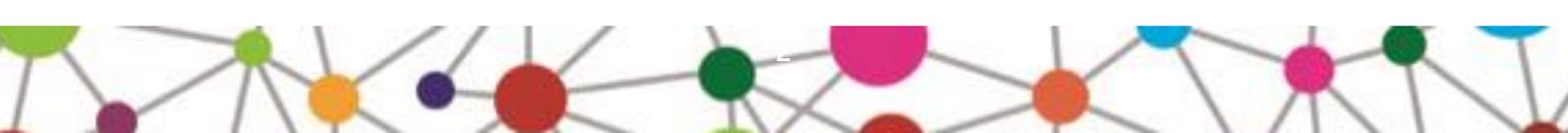


Our Approach

Violence causes considerable harm through fear, injury and loss. We believe that through working together and understanding and tackling its root causes, violence can be prevented. The VRN has adopted a public health approach to preventing violence. This involves continuously following the four-step process outlined below:



The four steps of a public health approach to violence prevention (World Health Organisation, 2002)

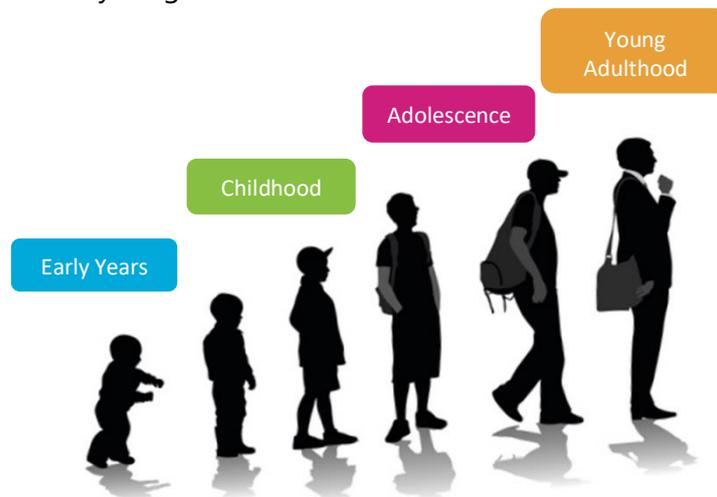


The public health approach is also reflected in our Core Principles:

Our Core Principles

1. Empower everyone, including young people and communities, to play a role in preventing violence.
2. Secure maximum impact through maintaining a population focus and always seeking to reduce inequalities.
3. Ensure our work is evidence-informed.
4. Adopt a life-course approach which is trauma-informed.
5. Promote and support whole-system thinking and action.
6. Add value to the current system and create sustainable solutions
7. Aim to continuously learn and improve.

We know that the causes of violence are multiple and arise from a complex interplay between a wide range of **risk and protective factors** which operate at different levels (individual, relationship, community and societal). As such, the VRN's approach involves identifying and reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors within and across these levels. We also seek to understand these factors within the context of the **life-course**, particularly from birth to young adulthood.

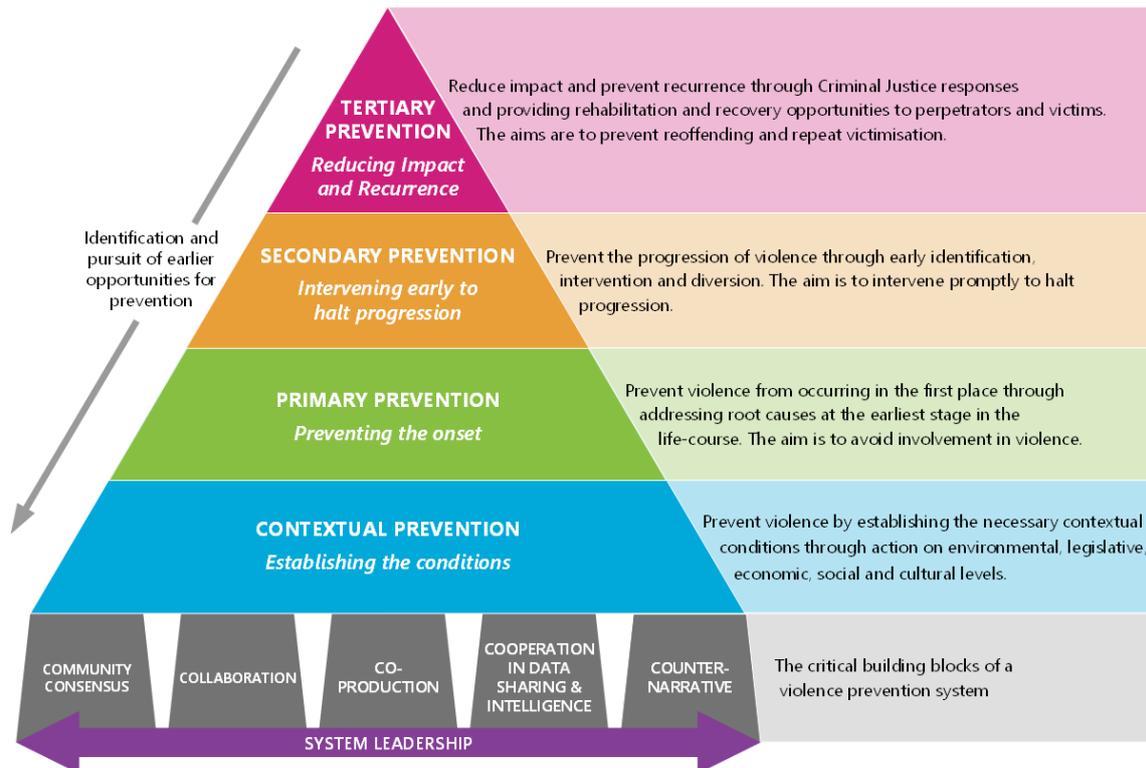


This is because violent behaviour and many of the conditions which contribute to its occurrence develop over time and like with almost every other aspect of human development, the foundations are laid in early childhood. Throughout life, a child may be exposed to different risk factors, for example as a teenager new risks outside the family home are likely to arise. Importantly there are many opportunities to address risks and strengthen protective factors.

The VRN seeks to prevent violence at the earliest opportunity. This requires system leadership and ensuring activity spans all levels of prevention. We use our **Violence Prevention Framework** for planning and implementing strategies to reduce and prevent violence.

An effective violence prevention system seeks to allocate the majority of resource to preventing violence from happening in the first place (primary prevention). The VRN seeks to support a paradigm shift towards increased investment in earlier prevention.

A Place-based, Whole System Framework for Violence Prevention



Based on PHE (2019) "A whole system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention"

The critical 'building blocks' underpin all of the VRN's prevention activity:

- **Community consensus:** we seek to empower communities to play a central and sustainable role in violence prevention through strengthening assets and increasing opportunities to lead and shape responses.
- **Collaboration:** we encourage and support all partners to play their role and promote working collaboratively across organisational and partnership boundaries.
- **Co-production:** we aim to involve young people and/or relevant communities in the design and delivery of services to improve their relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness.
- **Cooperation in data sharing and intelligence:** we use multi-agency data, the evidence-base and insights to improve both our understanding of violence and increase the effectiveness of our response.
- **Counter-narrative:** we counteract negative perceptions and enable change through accurate messaging and information, providing positive role models for children and young people and offering credible and concrete alternatives for young people

You can find out more about the VRN, our Response Strategy and other useful resources on our website: www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk