Core Principles for Commissioned Services

A set of principles and ways of working for our providers

WEST MIDLANDS
VIOLENCE
REDUCTION UNIT
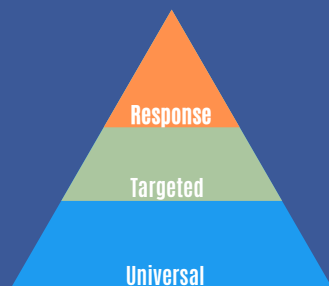
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The West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) works regionally and in local places to directly deliver and commission a comprehensive programme of activities designed to prevent and reduce violence and exploitation, applying the public health approach to reducing violence. Over the last eighteen months we have worked with a number of providers delivering a range of interventions to young people, families and communities.

Our delivery model is based on a three-tier approach:

Universal/core - providing support to all communities including access to primary, secondary and tertiary preventative interventions

Targeted - for places affected by violence and the risk factors evidenced to increase the likelihood of violence

Response - ensuring immediate support to communities in the aftermath of serious violence, in order to slow and prevent the transmission of violence

A recent consultation clearly identified three distinct priorities for commissioning during 2021/22. These include intensive mentoring; detached outreach; and support for young people to access and sustain engagement in positive activities.

In order to ensure consistency of provision, we have developed some guidance to support providers in tendering for opportunities with the VRU:

Our ambition is:

- Developing a collaborative whole system approach to preventing and reducing violence
- Tackling the root causes of violence by addressing local and regional inequalities
- Increasing aspirations for all young people
- Supporting the development of engaged, compassionate and resilient communities
- Nurturing children at all ages

We expect providers to:

Demonstrate a good understanding of:
- the public health approach to reducing violence
- all forms of violence and exploitation
- risk and protective factors associated with violence
- the picture of violence in the West Midlands, focusing on

- demographic local needs and assets and relevant partnerships/networks.
- evidence-based approaches to reduce violence
- how inequalities (specifically including racism) affect the communities you work and interact with

Provide evidence of:
- effective, direct work with young people and communities, including those experiencing a wide range of vulnerabilities
- an ability to work in complex, effective partnerships
- robust safeguarding policies and procedures
- a clear understanding of the impact of inequalities on communities.
- effectively working in local networks and partnerships and a willingness to work with other providers and be an active part of relevant regional networks/partnerships
- a sound understanding of safeguarding and comprehensive safeguarding policies with explicit escalation routes for disclosures
- utilising a whole family approach to reducing violence
- access to physical spaces in local places
- a clear understanding of how racism affects local communities and how to tackle racism

Ability to:
- provide a trauma informed (TI) response/approach, including a willingness to attend VRU TI Training or provide evidence of engagement with other training
- actively participate in local provider and partnership networks
- openly engage with internal and external evaluation, and provide quantitative and qualitative service data to inform the developing evidence base and support performance monitoring
- effectively engage with young people and local communities
- work flexibly and be able to respond to emerging priorities as they arise
- Attend a range of training provided by the VRU to increase consistency of provision
- Actively participate in relevant local partnerships

In response to this, the VRU will:
- provide access to relevant CPD opportunities including anti-racist training, bystander awareness raising, etc
- engage with you on new and emerging funding opportunities
- support you to showcase your work and good practice locally, regionally and nationally
- provide day to day support to providers from the VRU Delivery Team
- share local, regional and national best practice related to violence prevention and reduction
- support around capacity building and funding opportunities
- Connect providers into local networks to ensure that resources can be maximised, and duplication avoided.