

# West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit

The Role of the Violence Reduction Unit explained



WEST MIDLANDS  
VIOLENCE  
REDUCTION UNIT



@WestMidsVRU



[westmidlands-vru.org](http://westmidlands-vru.org)



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# The Role of the Violence Reduction Unit

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is one of eighteen VRUs across the country which is funded by the Home Office to build capacity in local places and systems and to **tackle the root causes of violence**. The unit is made up of a range of specialists who work regionally and locally to facilitate and encourage the development of system-wide responses to preventing violence.

There are many people and organisations across the region already working to prevent violence and to tackle the root causes, like poverty and inequality. We are here to support them, helping decision makers at every level, from frontline workers to senior leaders, to access data and information about the nature of violence in the region and to understand more about which interventions work best, in which contexts.

Our work is structured around a range of priorities and themes including:



Criminal Justice



Sports



Trauma Informed

Workforce/Region



Exploitation



Data, Insight, and Analysis



Education



Health



Faith



Place-based Working

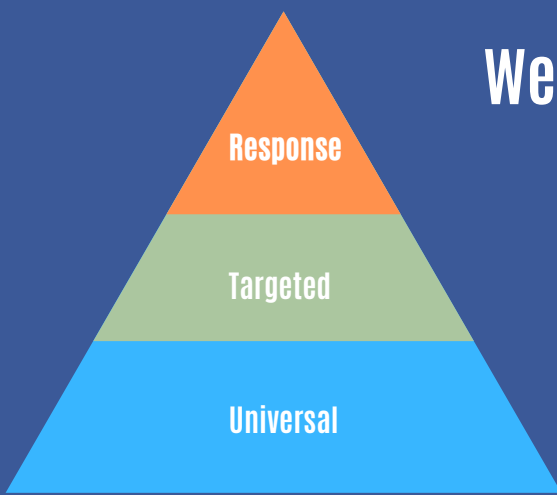
- We directly commission violence prevention and reduction initiatives
- Listening to young people is a key priority, we are developing a regional youth engagement framework
- The VRU is evidence led and data driven. You can find our Strategic Needs Assessment here: [bit.ly/vru-sna](https://bit.ly/vru-sna)
- Robust evaluation of our work is critical. You can view our Annual report here: [bit.ly/vruannualreport](https://bit.ly/vruannualreport)
- Our delivery team work across the region to deliver our offer at a local level
- We have established stakeholder networks across the region to bring people together to address violence prevention and reduction at a local level





# West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit

## Our Offer: Solihull



### Response

- Bespoke to each incident, the VRU will work in partnership and may be able to fund support responses following violence. This could include: individual/group mentoring; therapeutic work, family support; youth work; diversionary activity; specialist violence prevention workshops for schools; youth work around schools; coordinated support through Step Together; training/ awareness raising for local organisations or the community; additional community or youth engagement work to address potential community tension as a result of the incident.

### Targeted

Bespoke to each locality, services funded that will address local gaps and add value to existing assets:

- Youth club provision in North Solihull;
- Specialist mentoring;
- Girls project around parental incarceration;
- Boxing project (referral system in place through YOS);
- Detached youth work in North Solihull;
- Music project (closed referrals);
- Schools exclusion pathway;
- Access to lived experience mentors;
- Trauma informed practice support for education settings;
- Step Together support on selected school routes;
- St Giles County Lines Support Service;
- St Giles Rescue and Response Service;
- Heal Hub online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (devices can be borrowed if young person doesn't have an electronic device);
- Resettlement support following custody.

### Universal

- Free training: Childhood Adversity, Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), Trauma Informed Practice (TIP), Working with Trauma in Early Years, and the Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention and Reduction
- Establishing stakeholder networks and locality asset maps to understand the violence prevention and reduction work
- Connecting grassroots, voluntary and statutory sector partners with the VRU and the role everyone can play in violence prevention and reduction - capacity building
- Developing counter-narrative projects and youth engagement forums
- Community engagement projects
- Exploitation Awareness Raising Training.

**All of the work described above has been developed and agreed with local partners**

**If you would like to access any of the support and interventions detailed above, please contact your local community navigator**  
**Solihull: Alison O'Connell [a.oconnell@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:a.oconnell@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)**



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