



Service Specification Violence Prevention in Education – Pilot Project

1. About West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (WMVRP)

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (WMVRP) is one of twenty VRPs across England and Wales, established in 2019 and funded by the Home Office to build capacity in local places and systems, to tackle the root causes of violence. The VRP consists of public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations, bringing efforts together across the West Midlands Metropolitan Region to deliver on this ambition.

The WMVRP Team 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 and reducing violence, as well as directly delivering and commissioning a range of services/interventions. The Team actively work with local violence reduction partnerships to support their local violence prevention/reduction systems, enabling everyone from frontline workers to senior leaders to access data and information about the nature of violence in the region; support them to respond to the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty; and lead on developing and sharing a robust evidence base to understand the impact of interventions.

The VRP adopts a public health approach to preventing violence. This means focusing on understanding the root causes of the problem and testing, evaluating and upscaling interventions. Developing stronger data, analysis and evaluation is key to working in this way. A public health approach to preventing and reducing violence:

- Is collaborative
- Develops the evidence base
- Promotes innovation
- Promotes equity and equality
- Builds on the strengths of individuals and communities

The [West Midlands Violence Reduction Strategy](#) sets out the regional response to the Serious Violence Duty and a regional strategic plan to prevent and reduce violence between 2023 to 2026. It outlines how agencies and communities will work together to prevent and reduce the likelihood of children and young people under the age of 25, becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. The strategy's objectives include:

- influence systems to deliver prevention across the life course
- development of a sustainable, community led, and youth led approach to violence reduction
- building regional and local partnerships that enhance collaboration and innovation
- development of a West Midlands wide movement that aims for a violence free region
- influence delivery of evidence-based programmes in educational settings

2. West Midlands VRP and Violence Prevention in Education

West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership are committed to working with schools and other education settings to support, engage and safeguard children and young people. Our priority is to support the implementation of long-term prevention plans across education settings in the region, in order that there is a systematic and consistent approach to prevention within education that can:

- Identify opportunities to intervene earlier with children and young people
- Raise awareness of risk in relation to all forms of violence
- Provide schools and other education settings with support and additional resource to address risk
- Work collaboratively to respond to and prevent exclusions and time out of education
- Equip young people with the information and confidence to seek support for themselves and/or their peers
- Create trauma informed environments within education that address the root causes of violence
- Work with all children and young people in order to ensure that those “not reaching thresholds” can access support

In 2023/2024:

- 16,619 children and young people across the West Midlands engaged with interventions funded by the VRP
- 4,869 professionals received training to enhance the role they can play in violence prevention, and/or supported them to deliver sustainable primary prevention
- In addition to the work of the education team delivering primary prevention programs across the region, 92 schools received targeted intervention from the VRP, signposting, and/or prevention planning.

There is already a significant amount of work taking place in schools and other education settings across the region however, it can often feel reactive and not coordinated in relation to violence prevention. Schools often reach out when they have concerns or have experienced an issue, but we want to continue to work with them towards a pro-active approach where prevention plans are in place at the outset of the academic year, with the relevant resources identified and connected to the school. To ensure that everything the VRP does adds value and meets local needs, we work closely and collaboratively with local violence prevention partnerships and colleagues from local authorities, health, police, probation, youth justice, education, prisons and fire and rescue.

3. Aims of the Violence Prevention Pilot Project and Provider Requirements

West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership are seeking to deliver a pilot project across the West Midlands testing the impact of long-term prevention planning in education. The project will deliver one pilot per local authority area, focusing on a cluster of schools (agreed locally, with one secondary school and a number of its feeder primary schools in each cluster). As part of the project, the VRP are looking for a pool of dedicated providers to deliver a range of high quality, evidence-based interventions in education settings across the region to children and young people in years 5,6,7,8 and 9.

Prior to delivering interventions to schools/other education settings, successful providers will be required to attend an initial briefing (online) led by the VRP in July, with delivery commencing in schools in September 2025.

The VRP education team will work with local education leads, schools and other education settings to agree prevention plans and then allocate the appropriate interventions and activity to meet the needs of the setting and coordinate delivery across the academic year. Once settings have been identified, providers will be required to liaise with the VRP to coordinate dates and times for delivery.

The process for this is as follows:

- a) Education setting(s) will be allocated to provider through email
- b) Provider will liaise with the setting(s) to confirm the arrangements e.g. date, requirement for DBS, parking arrangements, who to report to, any specific learning requirements or reasonable adjustments.
- c) Trainer attends venue to deliver the intervention/activity
- d) Post session survey to be completed online after every delivery (using dashboard supplied by the VRP)
- e) Invoices submitted as per arrangements made with the VRP

The VRP are seeking to add established and new providers to the pool, who are already delivering, or in a good position to start to deliver, their interventions/activity in schools and/or other education settings, and are able to demonstrate how their work contributes to violence prevention and reduction. The interventions and activities should have clear aims and objectives and evidence of robust outcomes that demonstrate these aims have been reached.

The initial pool will be established before the end of the academic year, but will reopen for applications over the summer in order that the pool can grow and we are keen to nurture newer providers.

Successful providers will need to demonstrate skills/qualifications/experience such as (but not limited to):

Delivery Experience

- Extensive experience of delivering high quality evidence-based training to children and young people
- Positive outcomes from delivering interventions and activity to children and young people in school years 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9
- Skills and experience of delivery of interventions/activity/training across Education and Youth Sectors, to children and young people with complex needs
- An understanding of the impact of serious youth violence and violence prevention
- Youth work, mentoring or training qualifications and/or equivalent experience
- Proven experience of working with diverse communities and working with cultural sensitivity.
- Proven experience of working with children and young people impacted by exploitation and violence.

Policy Requirements

- A current safeguarding policy and procedure that has been reviewed in the last 12 months; the employees and volunteers working directly with children and young people on this project have a current enhanced DBS clearance; Please note you will be required to present DBS to school as evidence.
- A policy as an employer to comply with statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010
- National Living Wage Employer Policy

- Public Liability Insurance Policy to the value of at least £10 million

4. Investment over the course of the project

- Investment is for the period September 2025 to end of March 2026.
- Some planning meetings with education settings may take place in July 2025.
- Delivery in schools and other education settings will begin in September 2025.

5. Performance monitoring

An online dashboard developed by the VRP will be available to providers. Feedback, including the following, should be uploaded to the dashboard immediately after the session has ended:

- Date and time of training
- Venue
- Numbers engaged
- Narrative feedback on session

6. Payments

You will be required to outline the cost for your intervention/activity in the attached form. The cost outlined should be the total cost for delivery (i.e. inclusive of travel expenses, etc). If you have preferences on specific areas across the region where you would be willing to deliver, please stipulate this in your application.

Payment terms are 30 days payment on a monthly basis. Payment will be made on satisfactory monitoring as received via the VRP dashboard and approved by the education team.

7. Project Timescales and Implementation

Task	Anticipated Completion Date
Application deadline	Monday 23rd June 2025
Award Contract	Monday 7th July 2025
Contract Commencement Date	Monday 7th July 2025

8. Application Process and Scoring

Applications should be made via our [online form](#). Proposals provided not using the online form will not be accepted.

To be added to the approved provider list you will be required to:

- Score at least '3' in response to questions 2b – see scoring principles described below
- Comply with the policy requirements.
- Provide satisfactory references (ideally one should be from a school or other education setting who you have delivered for).
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Before awarding the contract, a financial assessment may be required.

Score	Scoring Principles
0	Rejected – the question is not answered or the response is completely unacceptable
1	Very Poor response – Only partially answers the requirement with major deficiencies and little relevant detail proposed
2	Poor response – only partially acceptable with deficiencies apparent. Some evidence provided but response falls short of providing full confidence in the approach/solution described
3	Acceptable Response – meets all or most requirements but limited and/or could have been expanded upon further. Any weaknesses can be addressed.
4	Good response- Meets all requirements fully. Good level of detail, response provides high levels of assurance in relation to the proposal.
5	Excellent response – Exceeds requirement in some or all areas. Comprehensive responses demonstrating a detailed understanding of requirement and/or customer. No weaknesses noted.

9. Contact for any queries

If you have any questions about the application please email vrp@westmidlands.police.uk