

## West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership

### **Highlight Report – July - September 2025 (Quarter 2)**

#### Overview:

The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) continues to commission a range of interventions across the Criminal Justice, Health and Education landscape, as well as providing direct support to local areas to develop their responses and approaches to reducing violence affecting young people. At the end of quarter two, we had reached over **23,000** young people, an increase of **53.3%** compared with the same time last year. Across the region we continue to see reductions in incidents of serious youth violence, including a **9% reduction** at the end of quarter two, compared with the same time last year.

#### Young Futures Prevention Partnerships (YPFF)

The VRP have coordinated local implementation of the Home Office Young Futures Prevention Partnership (YFPP). Young Futures Prevention Partnerships will identify children and young people vulnerable to being drawn into crime and ensure access to appropriate support, including Young Futures Hubs and other appropriate interventions and services.

During quarter two, we have supported Sandwell to create their Pilot Prevention Panel (police-led referrals), as well as Walsall and Wolverhampton to establish their Pathfinder Prevention Panels (education-led referrals). All panels include representation from the Violence Reduction Partnership, Local Authority Youth Justice, Children's Social Care, Police, Health, Education, and the Voluntary Sector, ensuring a multi-agency approach that reflects the breadth of local expertise and service provision. All three Prevention Panels have a robust governance structure and are expected to go live in **October 2025**. We will share an update on the progress of each panel in the quarter three highlight report.

The VRP Data and Evaluation Manager has created a localised monitoring template bespoke to each panel/pathfinder to track and monitor referrals, eligibility, panel attendance, and outcome. Our coordinated monitoring processes will ensure each panel has a consistent and coordinated approach to capturing the key performance data required by the Home Office.

The VRP will continue to coordinate a meeting across the Prevention Panels and Pathfinders to ensure alignment and connectivity across the region, relating to information, resources, and best practice sharing.

#### Education, My Tomorrow, and Change Makers:

The VRP team continue to directly deliver a range of preventative, evidence-based programmes in schools across the region. Whilst we anticipated lower reach during the summer term, **329** professionals have engaged with the VRP webinars which focus on:

- Introduction to childhood adversity and Trauma Informed Practice
- Trauma Informed Practice in Early Years
- Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG)
- Introduction to Exploitation
- Serious Violence Duty
- Public Health Approach

We launched our first **Parents and Carers** webinar in September 2025, designed to equip parents and carers with an understanding of the key risks and issues facing children and young people which can pose a risk to their safety. Over **30** parents and carers attended the first session. The webinars are being promoted in schools and delivery will continue throughout the year. To view and register for future VRP webinars, please visit our [Eventbrite](#) page.

## Education Prevention Pilot

The Education Prevention Pilot has been a key focus for the Education Team this quarter. The VRP have developed a provider pool of **80** organisations and over **200** high-quality evidence-based interventions.

The Education Intervention Officers have worked with **18** schools across Birmingham, Solihull, Walsall, and Wolverhampton to develop comprehensive education prevention plans for the academic year. As part of the Prevention Pilot, we are using Phoenix Psychology's Vulnerability Tool to help schools recognise vulnerability and provide consistent, bespoke support for young people during key transitions.

We have developed a robust safeguarding and governance process to strengthen quality assurance and due diligence of the pilot. Providers are expected to begin delivering interventions in November 2025.

## Precious Lives

The VRP coordinate the Precious Lives project which consists of lived experience trainers delivering sessions in schools to equip young people with an understanding of the key risks and issues relating to knife crime, violence, and the criminal justice system. **250** young people have benefitted from these sessions this quarter.

Please email us via [vrp@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:vrp@westmidlands.police.uk) for further information about the Precious Lives programme and booking enquiries.

## My Tomorrow

My Tomorrow, the region's counter narrative campaign, continues to gain significant traction across the region resulting in positive media coverage. Young leaders have engaged in workshops to develop the Change Maker sessions that they will be delivering directly to young people in faith spaces, youth, and community settings.

As part of the My Tomorrow campaign – which empowers young people to shape their own futures – the VRP supported **CSKN** to deliver a three-week music project in **Dudley**, providing free sessions for **20** young people. A lived experience mentor and well-known rapper delivered the sessions and reflected on his own experiences to discourage young people from violence and crime.

A video will be launched in quarter three, which will highlight the activities and art created by the young people. You can read more about Dudley's 'My Tomorrow' music project [here](#):

*“Everyone enjoys it here. It is different and in here everyone is cool with each other. It obviously helps young people get off the streets and it helps people show their talent in music and so I just came to showcase my talent.” - 17-year-old Z Abdin, from Dudley.*



The “**My Tomorrow & Child Friend Coventry**” sessions have continued throughout the city this summer. **His Honour Judge Matthew Walsh (Crown Court Judge)** visited Coventry Academy in July 2025 and engaged in discussions with two groups of young people about career prospects, peer pressure and issues concerning the young people of Coventry. These sessions form part of the city's campaign, which aims to improve the life chances of young people, and sends a positive message about the role young people have in the future of the city.

**34** young people attended free boxing sessions delivered by Pumpkin Boxing Gym as part of the My Tomorrow campaign in Dudley. **201** sessions were delivered across the summer which provided young people with a structured summer intervention activity and access to regular nutrition.

The above are just a few examples of how children, young people, partners, professionals, and communities have got behind and embraced My Tomorrow, using the concept as a platform to give children and young people access to opportunities to make their voices heard. This is at the heart of My Tomorrow, and we are so grateful to the commitment that has been shown to grow the movement, building a counter-narrative around the vibrancy, positivity, creativity and potential of our children and young people.

### **Change Makers**

Change Makers – our flagship upstander programme, alongside the My Tomorrow campaign continues to pick up pace. Led by the VRP Education Team, using a ‘train the trainer model’, Change Makers offers an initial 6 sessions which can be delivered in schools, youth and community settings, and explores the upstander approach, which seeks to empower and equip young people with skills and confidence to use their voice for positive change and stand up to violence.

**8** sessions have been delivered in schools before the summer term ended, with over **20** professionals being trained to deliver the programme. You can see the programme in action [here](#).

Our team of **31** young Change Makers are equipped to deliver these sessions to youth groups, professionals, and community leaders across the West Midlands. They are being supported by the charity the Positive Youth Foundation. To arrange a session you can contact: [info@positiveyouthfoundation.org](mailto:info@positiveyouthfoundation.org)

Change Makers is being piloted in Sandwell primary schools with Phoenix Psychology, where we will be capturing children’s pre-and post-feedback. Additional sessions are currently in development and will be progressed with the Young Leaders over the Autumn term, ready for use in January 2026.

We have started to develop the Change Makers programme to include bespoke sessions for the Criminal Justice sector. Further updates on the expansion of the Change Makers programme will be shared in the quarter three highlight report.

The Young Leaders participated in a series of training sessions throughout the summer, aimed at strengthening their confidence, leadership, and facilitation skills. These sessions equipped the Young Leaders with the skills to plan, structure and deliver engaging Change Makers workshop to their peers.

The Youth Leaders delivered sessions on key issues affecting young people, including online safety, peer pressure, and crime. **175 young people** engaged in the Change Makers workshops across **11** different organisations across the West Midlands. The workshops were delivered across a range of settings such as young groups, faith organisations, and sports venues to ensure the programme remained accessible and inclusive.

The summer programme ended with a celebration event at Lloyd House, where Young Leaders shared their achievements, reflected on challenges, and agreed next steps for the future of the Change Makers and My Tomorrow movement.

### **Faith and Community Engagement**

The VRP and the Faith Alliance are collaborating with partners to implement preventative strategies, including enhanced youth engagement. Throughout the summer the Faith Alliance have engaged with young people across various places of worship through delivery of our Change Makers programme. Young people have engaged with workshops which empower and equip them with skills and confidence to use their voice for positive change and stand up to violence. The Change Makers programme continues to grow across the Faith sector.

We launched our Faith Alliance Webinar in July 2025, which is designed to equip faith communities with a better understanding of the role they can play in violence reduction. The 3 webinars this quarter have been well attended, with **60** faith community members trained so far. Since the launch of the first webinar, the Faith Alliance membership has positively increased, meaning the faith sector has greater access to the tools and resources available to effectively support their communities. The webinar will be delivered monthly to raise awareness of the critical role faith communities play in violence prevention and reduction. To register for the next Faith Alliance webinar please visit our [Eventbrite](#) page.

The Faith Alliance have developed a Community Engagement Strategy to increase the involvement of faith communities with the VRP, placing them centrally and in leadership roles in decision making and co-production. We have developed a strategic plan to connect with places of worship, using data to highlight areas where engagement is limited. Part of this work includes a series of visits to places of worship to introduce the role of the Faith Alliance, connect more widely with faith communities, and equip the faith sector with an understanding of the role they can play in violence reduction.

In partnership with five other VRU's, WM VRP will host a national **Faith Conference in October 2025**, to share best practice and encourage other VRU areas to take the same approach. An update on the Faith Conference will be shared in the quarter three highlight report.

### Data & Evaluation

The Data and Evaluation team have continued to work on the key priorities as set out in the previous [highlight report](#). They are working alongside the OPCC analytical team to produce a strategic performance framework, helping to understand the impact of our work across the region.

The team have developed bespoke monitoring templates for the pilot and pathfinder Prevention Panels to ensure each Pathfinder/Panel has a consistent and coordinated approach to capturing the key performance data required by the Home Office.

The VRP Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) will be produced by April 2026 and will provide a concise and reflective evidence base from which partners and communities can understand youth violence in the West Midlands.

We have commissioned an independent consultant to lead on our evaluation work – Tori Olphin. Tori brings a wealth of expertise in data science, analytics, and evaluation. Tori has developed a strong understanding of the services commissioned across the region and identified a range of evaluation options. Plans are being finalised to confirm which methodological approaches will be conducted, these will be shared in the quarter three highlight report.

The Data and Evaluation team have finalised the Serious Violence Duty Information Sharing Agreement (SVD ISA). The SVD ISA has been circulated to statutory partners for signatures. This is an important first step to establish a more secure and collaborative framework for data exchange, which will strengthen the region's collective understanding of serious youth violence.

As part of the new Home Office initiative around Hyper Local Targeting in Birmingham City Centre, the VRP Data and Evaluation team have collaborated with key partners across the local Birmingham partnership, West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council, and the West Midlands Ambulance Service. A set of detailed partnership 'Problem-Oriented Policing' (POP) profiles have been developed which have informed local HEX action plans.

Dr Martin Glynn has led a workshop with the VRP to understand how we can strengthen our approach to participative and peer research. Research proposals are being developed which will go out for tender in quarter three.

### Local Placed Based Working

VRP funding has continued to support the delivery of local violence prevention and reduction plans across the region, as well as providing resources to help local partners to respond to incidents of serious violence when they occur. VRP Navigators continue to support local areas to deliver their violence prevention and reduction plans.

Of this funding, **£245,000** has been allocated to help local areas plan and implement initiatives that aim to reduce the risk of summer violence spikes and sustain activity through the summer and October half-term. This year we saw a range of youth work, mentoring and sports activities delivered, which all played a role in suppressing spikes across the holiday period. In total, place based funded projects provided vital support and intervention to **8112** children and young people and delivered training to **825** professionals to strengthen their work in reducing and preventing violence. Reports from the summer period show excellent outcomes and clear impact from the investment. Highlights from quarter two include:

## Birmingham

- Supported the local partnership to develop the Home Office hyperlocal knife crime initiative in the City Centre which is being led by the Birmingham Violence Reduction Board. Delivery will begin in October 2025.
- Used the summer mitigation funding to develop a Serious Youth Violence hub in the city, based in Birmingham Children's Trust. The EMPOWERU Serious Youth Violence Hub will provide a new referral pathway for children and young people experiencing extra-familial harm and violence. A VRP funded Clinical Psychologist is embedded within the hub, to ensure that the complex and layered needs of young people are identified and responded to effectively and delivered in a clinically safe way.
- The Children's Society's 'Circle of Friends' programme reached **148** new young people, through group work, 1 to 1 interventions, and activities decided and driven by the outcomes that the young people are aiming to achieve. Referrals were received from Birmingham Children's Trust, Youth Justice Services, schools, and parents, demonstrating the multi-agency working across the programme.

## Coventry

- Supported West Midlands Police to establish and coordinate the Coventry Partnership Tactical Board to support violence reduction which sits under Coventry's Strategic Violence Board.
- The expanded youth outreach provision across the city reached **1333** new young people, which contributed to the **12% reduction of Serious Youth Violence (SYV)** over the summer period when compared with same time last year.
- **37** new young people this quarter engaged with early years intervention "Tizz Time," which provides a protective behaviours programme in nurseries.
- St Giles Trust supported **12** new young people through their "SOS+" mentoring programme relating to knife crime awareness, exploitation and decision making.
- Collaborated with West Midlands Police and Coventry City Council to explore new weapon surrender bin locations in Coventry.
- Managed the Step Together programme across the City Centre and Hillfields. Regular meetings have taken place with relevant schools, Sky Blues in the Community (the provider), Coventry City Council, and the Police to ensure the programme continues to meet local needs in terms of keeping children safe during their journey home from school. Sustainability conversations will continue in quarter three.



## Dudley

- Extended provision provided opportunities for **194** new young people to engage with positive activities and support over the summer.
- **31** young people attended Phase Trust's enhanced drop-in youth sessions which provided a fun, safe place to be during the summer.
- **17** young people had the opportunity to visit a theme park as part of Phase Trust's extended summer provision.
- **112** young people engaged in a range of activities which combined mentorship with creative arts as part of CSKN's 'Summer of Fun'. A video is being produced which will be available in quarter three, demonstrating the excellent work produced by the young people.
- Team Pumpkin Boxing Gym delivered **free boxing sessions** to **34** young people throughout the summer. The 201 sessions delivered combined boxing exercises with knife crime awareness.
- CSKN and Cranstoun Here 4 YOUTH continue to deliver mentoring interventions, including lived experience focused interventions to young people at risk of violence/exploitation. **19** young people benefited from intensive interventions throughout quarter two.
- Collaborated with West Midlands Police and Dudley Community Safety Partnership to explore new weapon surrender bin locations in Dudley.

- The VRP worked with Public Health and Dudley Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to re-establish the local Violence Prevention Group. The board will be known as the Dudley Violence Prevention Partnership, and the first meeting is scheduled for December 2025.

## Sandwell

- VRP funded summer interventions reached **1156** children and young people in Sandwell. These services included sport activities, detached youth work, mentoring, and diversionary activities.
- **210** new young people engaged in Boxclever's holistic well-being summer project, which included martial arts and British sign language lessons.
- **30** young people received support from a new multi-agency diversionary project in Sandwell, delivered by various multi-agency partners including Ambitious Lives, West Midlands Police, Horizons, St John's Ambulance, The Right Path, Youth Justice, Youth Services and Sandwell Community School.
- We explored new weapon surrender bin locations in Sandwell with West Midlands Police and Sandwell Community Safety Partnership.
- Supported the [Sandwell Council Safer 6 campaign](#) which focused on crime prevention and local partnership intervention.



## Solihull

- The summer provision of detached outreach delivered by Fitcap reached **527** new young people.
- The VRP supported the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Chelmsley Wood to prevent anti-social behaviour in the area.
- We coordinated a site visit with West Midlands Police and Solihull Community Safety Partnership to explore new weapon surrender bin locations in Solihull.
- **251** young people engaged with youth provision delivered in Smiths Wood where there are gaps in the Borough in youth services.
- VRP Navigator supported multiple community events delivered on Solihull's [Youth Bus](#).
- We supported local organisations to apply for funding bids to sustain the provision of interventions in the Borough.

## Walsall

- VRP funded summer interventions reached **454** children and young people in Walsall.
- **24** new referrals were received to the CARE programme, which delivers key interventions to young people in Walsall.
- Mapped faith spaces across Walsall to identify gaps in our networks and pursued opportunities to establish stronger engagement with these faith settings.
- Collaborated with West Midlands Police and Walsall Community Safety Partnership to explore new weapon surrender bin locations in Walsall.
- Connected with stakeholders to increase numbers engaged in the under 25 stakeholder network.
- Promoted the VRP universal training offer and developed a bespoke training plan for professionals and young people.

## Wolverhampton

- Collaborated with Wolverhampton Football Foundation to embed the Change Makers programme throughout their service.
- The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership commissioned three providers to deliver unique pilot programmes for young people to participate in over the holidays. Key highlights from the three pilot programmes include:
  - **Wolves Foundation Youth Club** delivered a youth club at Molineux Stadium. **244** new young people accessed the youth club throughout the summer and engaged in sports, arts and educational

- programmes and developed trusted relationships with youth workers and peers.
- **Mandem Meetup** delivered an outdoor nature-based initiative which supported **16** boys aged 14–15, identified by their schools as vulnerable and at risk of engaging in crime. Delivered entirely outdoors by facilitators with lived experience, the programme focused on prevention, reflection, and growth.
- **Reach and Unite (RUOE)** delivered a 6-week AQA Award Scheme focused on promoting safety, wellbeing, and positive development of young people. It supported young people's physical and mental health whilst enabling them to earn recognised qualifications and build confidence. **19** young people (aged 24 and under) completed the programme, gaining both qualifications, awards, and valuable tools for personal growth.
- Explored new weapon surrender bin locations with Wolverhampton Community Safety team and WMP.

## Health

- A&E Navigators provided critical interventions to **183** young people who had experienced violence and/or violence related injuries and trained **110** hospital staff to provide violence reduction interventions.
- Launched the Parents and Carers webinar series and developed accompanying resources for parents and carers.
- The VRP Health Delivery Manager delivered the “Introduction to Trauma Informed Practice in Healthcare settings” to **104** healthcare professionals. The webinar introduces the basics of understanding adversity & trauma, its impacts on health, and begins to explore working in a more trauma informed way in healthcare settings.
- The VRP Clinical lead delivered training to **230** professionals, including trauma informed practice and exploitation awareness sessions to first year resident Doctors, and presented an update on the progress of Paediatric Guidelines to the regional Special Interest Group of named Doctors for Safeguarding.
- Re-launched the regional SVD strategic & operational groups for health partners and have secured senior nominations from the Chief Executive of each hospital Trust. The Strategic Group is a vital forum which encourages collaboration across the health sector to reduce serious youth violence.

Senior Clinical Psychologists from Phoenix Psychology have continued to work within the VRP developing toolkits, resources, and support for local violence reduction boards to streamline pathways and connect young people effectively to mental health support and intervention.

Phoenix Psychology's Clinical Psychologist is now embedded into the recently established Serious Youth Violence (EMPOWER U) hub in the city, based in Birmingham Children's Trust. The Serious Youth Violence Hub will provide a new referral pathway for children and young people experiencing extra-familial harm and violence. Phoenix Psychology will support the hub with clinical case formulations and reflective supervision.

Barnardo's are supporting Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) plans across Sandwell, Solihull and Wolverhampton local authorities, which involves a TIP train-the-trainer programme. They have trained **22** local authority professionals in Sandwell to date. This quarter, **20** professionals in **Wolverhampton** engaged with the programme. **25** training places are booked in Solihull for October 2025.

Barnardo's launched a new Trauma Informed online training programme “Beyond Trauma Theory”, with **187** professionals attended so far. The “Beyond Trauma Theory” session is designed for professionals who have an existing basic understanding of trauma and explores the central role of relationship-based practice and reflects on relational styles and biases. **59** professionals also attended Barnardo's neurodiversity awareness training which equips professionals with strategies to support children and young people.

The final Trauma Informed Coalition workshops have been delivered, and the closing report of the Coalition has been published. [The resources produced](#) continue to be well used across partners.

Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) training to has been delivered to Coventry University. We have supported Coventry University to embed Trauma Informed theories and resources into their student nursing curriculum, set to go live in

December 2025. This includes a digital simulation tool where student nurses can apply learnt trauma-informed theories to case study examples. The above is just one example of how medical professionals are becoming better equipped to apply trauma informed theories and approaches across healthcare settings.

Please visit our [Eventbrite](#) page, or [email us](#) about the VRP training offer.

### **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):**

The Introduction to Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG) webinar continues to have a good sign-up rate, with over **60** professionals attending the training this quarter.

The webinar is regularly reviewed and refreshed to ensure that it reflects emerging government policy, best practice, and regional developments. We have adapted our VAWG webinar to include topics such as positive masculinity, online influencers, the 'manosphere' and ways to work constructively with boys. Feedback remains highly positive with participants expressing they are learning new things and finding the content useful.

The VRP VAWG Navigator has developed robust guidance relating to Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls for inclusion in the VRP Education Toolkit, expected to go live in February 2026.

The VRP commission a female specific exploitation service in Wolverhampton - Expect Respect. **46** new cases have been referred to the service so far in this financial year. **37** beneficiaries were supported this period, **19** cases remain open.

### **Sport:**

The VRP have worked with StreetGames in quarter two to understand how we can continue to embed the regional sports strategy across the West Midlands. The VRP will continue to support StreetGames' workforce development and capacity building across the region, to strengthen the role sports organisation can play in violence prevention and reduction.

Over the coming six months, StreetGames will work with local partnerships to address the issues identified through their sports audit and strategically embed the role of sports in their local violence prevention and reduction plans.

### **Criminal Justice and Exploitation:**

#### **Criminal Justice**

The VRP Criminal Justice work includes a variety of commissioned projects and interventions that are both community and custody based, in spaces when children and young people can be at their most vulnerable. These programmes provide extensive support to children and young people on the cusp of or engaged with the criminal justice system.

Delivery of the Youth Endowment Funded programme, Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) ended in August 2025. The project has now entered a reporting and evaluation phase. The internal evaluation report is expected in late 2025 and will be uploaded to our [Data and Insights Hub](#).

Since its inception, CIRV has made a significant difference to the lives of many young people, providing vital intervention, guidance, and opportunities to help some of our most vulnerable young people towards a more positive future. This success has been a testament to the dedication and collaboration of all our partners, and we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. In the step-down of CIRV, both teams in Coventry and Wolverhampton have reviewed open cases, agreed exit plans, and worked with local partners to ensure onward referrals are made for those requiring additional support to mitigate the impacts of the project ending.

Key highlights from the programme include:

- CIRV received **2,156** referrals across both sites. **1,531** were at some point suitable for CIRV. **601** were randomised into a control group and **872** were either in treatment or \*case worked\* cohorts.

- **102** people have successfully graduated from the programme with their needs met.
- **350** individuals have been positively engaged, and **155** individuals have been disrupted across both sites.

*\*Case worked\* cohort status meant the individual was not subject to randomisation conditions but accepted into the programme.*

In addition to the above, the VRP Criminal Justice work includes a variety of other commissioned projects and interventions that are in the community, policy custody, and prisons. The interventions target young people across the region who may be on the periphery or entrenched in exploitation, serious youth violence, and/or the criminal justice system.

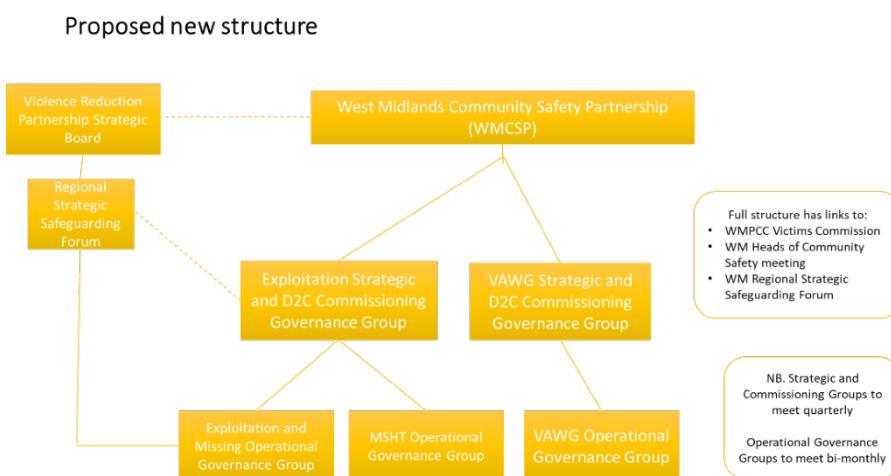
So far in this financial year, criminal justice related/based interventions have reached:

- Over **716 children** and young people under 24
- Over **80 young people** over 25
- Over **113 professionals**, trained on a variety of topics, including (but not limited to) the impacts of parental imprisonment.

## Exploitation

Through the Exploitation workstream, the team work closely with partnerships in local exploitation hubs and key stakeholders to ensure that there is an effective joined up approach to preventing, identifying, and responding to children, young people, and adults at risk of or experiencing exploitation.

The West Midlands Community Safety Partnership Regional Board endorsed a new governance model (set out below). This structure seeks to ensure robust operational and strategic governance and alignment for exploitation and Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking. The new structure will come into effect in January 2026.



Following recommendations from the Independent CSA Inquiry, the Exploitation Screening Tool language pilot, facilitated by Phoenix Psychology, is progressing well. A feedback session on the language pilot is scheduled for October to review whether areas have piloted a change in risk categorisation language on their screening tools following consultation earlier this year. The proposed language was:

- Entrenched (High)
- Targeted (Medium)
- Vulnerable (Low)

Phoenix Psychology will continue to support local areas with the language pilot and offer clinical/psychological consultations around repeat missing children.

### **Response**

The VRP have delivered crucial support to communities when incidents of violence occur and/or when patterns emerge in relation to increasing violence.

This quarter we have funded intensive support for **98** young people in the West Midlands who have been identified as at risk in relation to violence in their community. Of this number, **16** young people across the region have been supported through the Habitual Knife Carrier work which is led by West Midlands Police but supported via the VRP for anyone under the age of 18 who has carried a knife twice or more in a 12-month period. You can read more about Habitual Knife Carrier's and police survey data on knife crime [here](#):

### **Weapon Surrender Bins:**

As part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's commitment to tackle and prevent knife crime across the West Midlands, the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is overseeing the installation of a further **30** bins over the next three years, in addition to the existing bins already located across the West Midlands.

Weapon surrender bins provide an opportunity for anyone to deposit knives and other harmful items safely and anonymously. Since April 2025, a total of **1867** weapons have been surrendered across the region.

Whilst these numbers provide reassurance to our communities that there are less weapons on our streets, this is just one strand of the vital work, both the OPCC and the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) are delivering, to prevent and divert children and young people from becoming either a victim and/or a perpetrator of youth violence and knife crime.

We have engaged with Community Safety Partnerships, West Midlands Police, and local communities to explore new weapon surrender bin locations throughout this quarter. Conversations are progressing well, and new bins are expected to be launched across the region in quarter three.

A map of the OPCC commissioned weapon surrender bins in your local area can be found [here](#). When a new weapon surrender bin is launched, the VRP and OPCC will update via our socials and [webpage](#):

If you have any queries or requests relating to weapon surrender bins, please email [vrp@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:vrp@westmidlands.police.uk)

### **Working in Partnership with West Midlands Police (WMP)**

The Violence Reduction Partnership and West Midlands Police continue to work closely together to strengthen our individual and collective responses to preventing violence. Police serious youth violence data is regularly shared within the wider strategic partnership to ensure a collective understanding of patterns and trends and to support a multi-agency response.

The VRP are working with the police to provide a bespoke package of support to those identified as habitual knife carriers. Where consent is obtained, up to £2,000 per person is being provided for support which includes mentoring and diversionary activity. **16** young people have received bespoke mentoring and support this quarter. We are exploring options for an evaluation this work.

The VRP have a key role in police consequence management meetings which take place in the immediate aftermath of incidents of serious violence. We ensure that the wider impact of the incident is responded to, in an attempt to prevent the onward transmission of violence. Examples of incidents where support has been offered include a violent disorder involving several young people in a public place, a firearm discharge and a serious assault involving the use of a knife. Resources have been invested to prevent further victimisation and support those affected. As part of these packages of support, detached youth workers have been funded and deployed into relevant areas and schools have been offered long term violence prevention planning and support.

Work across the police continues on their journey to become a trauma informed organisation. During quarter two Barnardo's have continued roll-out of trauma informed training to WMP Family Liaison Officers and those who execute warrants (teams with Operations, SOCEX, gangs' teams and priority crime teams). Barnardo's have reviewed WMP policies which focus on officer assaults and have agreed to assist with the development of a programme at Sandwell which focuses on officers who are victims of racially aggravated offences.

An extensive programme of work is ongoing with the Operation's Department regarding the execution of warrants. This has included focus groups, working with partners such as Children Heard and Seen, the development of a practical resource for families (including young children) who have been impacted by the execution of a warrant and training for officers involved in this process. Software available on tablets used by children in custody is being enhanced. This includes the development of videos explaining the custody process, videos from partner agencies and enhancing the availability of features which will ground and educate children.

Barnardo's are supporting a Longford Scholar to produce an evidence-based report relating to trauma sensitive interview rooms. The findings of this report will inform how WMP develop trauma sensitive custody suites.

Operation Sceptre returns in November 2025 which is a bi-annual, national, campaign designed to tackle knife crime. This will see a week of intensified activity led by UK police forces and supported by partners. An update on the key highlights from Operation Sceptre will be shared in the quarter three report.

For further information on each of the themes in this briefing, please contact:

- **Localities and community engagement:** [Matthew.stone@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:Matthew.stone@westmidlands.police.uk)
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- **Sport:** [Alison.oconnell1@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:Alison.oconnell1@westmidlands.police.uk) / [nikki.penniston@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:nikki.penniston@westmidlands.police.uk)