

OFFICIAL

Specification

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) Community and Peer Research

Lot 1

1 Context

The VRP is seeking to commission the delivery of several pieces of community and peer-led research. The VRP is committed to involving communities and young people in the research process. Our aim is to gain valuable insights from young people, parents, carers and individuals with lived experience about what they believe will help address the challenges they face.

The VRP understand the importance of collaborating with partners to share data and create insights to support a more complete understanding on the local drivers of serious violence. Effective data sharing and collaboration helps inform strategic needs assessments and develop local strategies. Alongside working with partners and academic institutions, we also recognise the significance of involving local communities to gain insights and assisting with solving local problems.

Community and peer research can provide context into why events may occur, not just identifying that patterns are occurring. This methodology complements and adds depth to statistical data analysis by providing explanations and real-life examples to patterns or insights. Furthermore, community and peer research may identify experiences or perspectives that do not appear within existing datasets. Community and peer research specifically can encourage a greater trust and openness, facilitating deeper insights and empowering communities to have an active role in research and influencing change. Therefore, we are looking to commission community and peer-led research to supplement statistical analysis and help implement change to prevent and reduce serious violence.

OFFICIAL

2 Service Specific Requirements

We aim to commission a provider to lead, oversee, organise and train community and peer researchers to deliver a series of research projects through a range of methods, enhancing our understanding and capacity to implement effective violence prevention strategies.

The provider will be expected to have comprehensive experience in undertaking a range of robust research methods. The methodology should employ a mixed-methods approach incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods to ensure rich insight is gathered. The provider should identify their approach to the tailored questions below, incorporating techniques that may include but are not limited to:

- Structured, semi-structured, unstructured interviews or focus groups with parents, carers, community members, professionals or children and young people.
- Surveys (face to face, online or paper) incorporating both qualitative and quantitative questions. Such as multiple choice, open-ended, likert scale and ranking questions.
- Literature reviews and secondary research.
- Arts-based and creative engagement methods.
- Place-based observations and ethnographic research.

It is expected that the commissioned provider will gather data from participants that are representative of the West Midlands demography, including participants from each of the seven local authorities (Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton). Participants should include but are not limited to professionals, parents, carers, community members and children and young people. It is understood that specific research questions may wish to target specific participants therefore, each piece of research may not include all of the described cohorts.

OFFICIAL

The VRP have identified research questions which we would like to further explore to support our understanding and commissioning of interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence. The questions provided below are indicative; alternative or refined questions proposed by the provider are welcomed. We aim to explore four distinct research questions.

1. How can the VRP support professionals, parents, carers and children and young people to prevent and reduce serious violence escalated through online landscapes?
2. How can the VRP work with partners to prevent serious violence that occurs at the end of the school day?
3. How can the VRP work with partners to prevent serious violence which occurs within the night-time economy?
4. How do children and young people and professionals define, perceive, and believe safe spaces can be designed and implemented to prevent and reduce serious violence?

OFFICIAL

3 Skills and Qualification Requirements

- Pre-existing relationships with partners, organisations and networks across the West Midlands and in each of the seven local authorities to recruit participants and researchers.
- Experienced in recruiting and training peer researchers to undertake mixed methods research across the West Midlands.
- The West Midlands is a young and diverse region; the provider is required to have strong interpersonal and relationship skills to engage with a range of audiences including seldom-heard groups.
- Ability to collect, manage, analyse and interpret data, synthesising data into understandable key recommendations to drive and influence change.
- Ability to produce clear high-quality reports designed to disseminate findings in a range of formats including but not limited to reports, presentations and infographics.
- Strong presentation and communication skills with experienced background in presenting complex research methods to a range of partners, stakeholders and decision makers.
- Experienced and detailed knowledge surrounding ethical and safeguarding practices such as informed consent, confidentiality, data protection legislation, GDPR and conducting ethical research.

4 Key Performance Indicators

The KPIs will be reviewed at the monthly progress meetings with the VRP Data and Evaluation Manager.

1. Recruit a peer research team of at least 15 individuals who reside in West Midlands postcodes and are representative of the seven local authority areas by January 2027.
2. Clear and detailed methodology with research questions and methods proposed by month 2 of the project.

OFFICIAL

3. Demonstrate a peer research team participant demographics match local census data by month 3 of the project.
4. Provide descriptive statistics on participants that are representative of the West Midlands demography.
5. Complete 250 peer-led surveys and 30 in-depth peer interviews with participants across the West Midlands by February 2027.

5 Key Deliverables and Timeline

- Monthly Reviews: progress meetings with the VRP Data and Evaluation Manager.
- Draft research reports: presented by 28th February 2027
- Final research reports: completed by 31st March 2027.

6 Contract Price and Duration

This is a short-term contract scheduled to conclude on 31st March 2027, with a suggested budget envelope of around £55,000. There may be an option to extend the contract by up to a further year. This is subject to future VRP funding and need.