Violence Prevention Provider Pool

Service Specification and Instructions for Applicants.

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 leads regional collaboration and partnership working to bring 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:

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

2. West Midlands VRP Commissioning

The VRP commission a range of services across health, criminal justice, exploitation, education and communities. Examples of these include:

- **Resettlement Support:** Offering accommodation, mental health, and finance/debt support for individuals leaving prison or under probation supervision to help them build crime-free lives.
- **Focused Deterrence –** target high-risk individuals or groups responsible for a disproportionate amount of serious crime and combine clear communication of consequences (deterrence) with tailored support and community engagement to encourage desistance from violence.
- **Targeted interventions / mentoring:** Interventions and programmes designed to change the thinking, attitudes, and behaviours that lead to ASB, offending and reoffending and other harmful outcomes. These can be delivered across Education, criminal justice, health and community settings.
- **Diversionary activities:** Engaging high-risk youth in positive opportunities such as education, training, employment, sports and positive activities to provide alternatives to criminal behaviour.
- **Emotional Support and** Psychological Therapeutic Support: This includes immediate emotional support, ongoing one-to-one interventions, group work, counselling, and trauma-informed therapy.
- **Restorative Justice:** Providing information about restorative justice options and facilitating communication between victims and offenders if the victim chooses.
- **Gang Exit Programmes:** Specific programmes to help individuals disengage from gang involvement.
- **Through-the-gate:** interventions designed to help prisoners transition back into the community, with the specific aim of reducing reoffending and preventing future violence.
- **Advocacy and Signposting:** Providing advocacy to help service users navigate and access community resources, such as health, housing, education, and legal services.
- **Information and Guidance:** Providing clear, impartial information to families and young people relating to safety and wellbeing.
- **Contextual Safeguarding:** Focusing not just on the individual, but also on the places and social contexts where harm occurs (e.g., schools, communities, online spaces).
- **Detached work:** in communities where there is a Hub/Centre
- **Sport, Arts and Culture**- using this as a means of engaging with vulnerable children and young people.
- **Violence Fixated Individuals and Online Harm-** support for individuals showing signs of violence and violent online subcultures.
- **Parents and Carers -** Parents and carers are a key priority in the regional strategy and work will be undertaken to provide support around the key risks facing their children and to provide them with the knowledge and skills to enable them to support them effectively.
- **Outreach work:** in communities with no hub or centre such as a City Centre

3. Aims of the VRP Provider Pool

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership introduced the provider pool to support the delivery of a pilot project across the region to test the impact of long-term prevention planning in education. The provider pool has enabled swift access to a range of bespoke interventions as part of the pilot project.

The VRP is now re-opening the provider pool and seeking expressions of interest from providers across the region. The pool will continue to be used to support work in education however, its use will be extended to support other projects and programmes including habitual knife carriers; response work in communities; and other projects requiring local interventions and support. **Applying to be on the pool does not automatically lead to being commissioned.** It enables the VRP to have access to a range of providers who we are confident and reassured have the appropriate due diligence and safeguarding checks in place.

a) Growing the provider pool:

The initial provider pool was established during the start of the 2025/26 academic year, specifically for organisations that deliver violence prevention programmes in education settings and to support the pilot education project. Due to the growing needs of the VRP, in terms of developing a quality pool of providers who can deliver a range of primary, secondary and tertiary interventions, we are now seeking to invite new and established providers who are:

- already delivering, or in a good position to start delivering their interventions across a range of settings; and
- are able to demonstrate how their work is evidence based and can contribute to violence prevention and reduction.
- Can evidence how their interventions/services have had a positive impact on preventing and reducing violence, within a wider violence prevention and reduction system.

By joining the pool providers understand there is no guarantee that they will be commissioned.

4. Provider qualifications/ skills and/or standards

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 ensuring that targeted provision based on existing evidence, provides the best chance of reducing serious youth violence. High impact interventions are those assessed by the YEF toolkit. *For further information visit Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit.*
- Positive outcomes from delivering interventions and activity to children and young people under the age of 25.
- 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
- An understanding of the public health approach to reducing violence
- Youth work, mentoring or training qualifications and/or equivalent experience, at a minimum across the delivery team
- Proven experience of effectively working with diverse communities and working with cultural sensitivity.
- Proven experience of effectively 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 the Director/CEO of each organisation will be required to present a DBS 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.
- Employers Liability Insurance to the value of at least £10 million.
- Professional Indemnity Insurance to the value of at least £5million
- Data Protection policy in line with General Data Protection Regulations.

5. 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:

1. Score at least '3' in response to the quality questions – see scoring principles described below.
2. Comply with the policy requirements.
3. Provide two satisfactory references

The table below provides an overview of the assessment, award and suitability criteria:

Assessment	**Assessment Criteria**
Ability to demonstrate organisation can deliver interventions in the West Midlands Region	Must score at least 3 in award criteria
Ability to deliver evidence-based interventions in line with the YEF toolkit	Must score at least 3 in award criteria
Demonstration of positive outcomes delivery in violence reduction	Must score at least 3 in award criteria
Economic and Financial Standing (Credit check)	Pass/Fail
Technical and Professional Ability (references)	Pass/Fail
Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults	Pass/Fail
Insurances	Pass/Fail
Data Protection	Pass/Fail
Equality & Diversity	Pass/Fail
DBS checks	Pass/Fail

Before awarding the contract, a financial assessment may be required.

Award criteria and methodology:

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.

The due diligence and on boarding of the providers.

a) VRP Provider Pool application submitted, each application must upload an Intervention Information Form (see Annex A) (VRP Violence Prevention Provider Pool - Application Form
b) Organisation due diligence completed.
c) Enhanced DBS Status Check performed on CEO/Director
d) Panel review and scoring of applications.
e) Provider approved to be in pool (subject to the outcome of the Enhanced DBS Status Check).
f) Contract issued and counter signed by OPCC.
g) VRP/OPCC draw resource from the pool
h) Delivery confirmed between setting and provider
i) Provider submits monthly monitoring form and invoice
j) Subject to satisfactory monitoring, the VRP will approve and process the invoice

By joining the pool, providers understand there is no guarantee that they will be commissioned.

Allocating a provider to a required intervention

1) Need is identified
2) VRP Check approved provider list
3) Identify providers able to meet the need
4) Check availability / capacity. *Providers are required to confirm their availability to the VRP within 2 working days. If the provider does not respond within 2 working days, the VRP will seek availability from alternative suitable providers. Support for critical incidents will require a response within 24 hours of the request.*
5) If one suitable provider: Allocate directly.
6) If multiple suitable providers:
    a. Consider the requester preference where appropriate
    b. Consider specialist fit where needs are particularly specific
    c. Consider previous performance of monitoring
    d. Otherwise use a provider rotation system

Where more than one approved provider is able to meet a requirement, the VRP will allocate the opportunity using an objective and proportionate allocation methodology. This will take account of suitability for the specific requirement, availability and capacity, or intervention setting preferences where relevant, and the provider's previous allocation of opportunities. The VRP may depart from the rotation where there is a demonstratable specialist requirement, safeguarding consideration, continuity requirement or other evidenced reason. The rational for the allocation will be recorded.

Criteria	**Score**	**Weight**
Match required Intervention need	Yes/No	
Match required Age	Yes/No	

Match required Area	Yes/No	
Match required capacity/Availability	Yes/No	
Consider the requester preference where appropriate	0-5	20%
Consider specialist fit where needs are particularly specific	0-5	50%
Consider previous performance of monitoring	0-5	30%
Tie breaker		
Otherwise use a provider rotation system	Allocations YTD	

Previous allocation – if the interventions are equal, the provider with the fewest comparable allocations will be chosen.

Safeguarding and DBS Checks:

Our robust safeguarding due diligence process requires that the Director/CEO is subject to an Enhanced DBS Status Check. Following consent from each provider, we will perform a "DBS Status Check" on the provider Director/CEO. A **DBS status check** is an online check performed to see if any new criminal information has been identified about an individual since their last Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate was issued.

The outcomes indicate whether the original certificate remains current or if new information has been identified. The outcome of the DBS Status Check is reviewed at an internal VRP panel. Subject to a successful DBS status check, the provider is onboarded to the provider pool. The flowchart below (Annex A) demonstrates the process of the DBS Status Check.

Certificate information is only used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's full consent is given. Schools are required to conduct their own checks in accordance with their organisation's safeguarding policies and procedures.

As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checking service, the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership complies fully with the code of practice regarding the correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of information. It also complies fully with its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and other relevant legislation pertaining to the safe handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of information and has a written policy on these matters, which is available here:

Information-Governance-August-2021.pdf (westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)

6. Performance monitoring

An online data monitoring template developed by the VRP will be available to providers. The provider is required to complete a monitoring return when delivery is complete. 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

7. Costing/Pricing and Payments

You will have outlined the cost for your intervention/activity in the Intervention Information Form, submitted with your application (Annex B refers). The cost outlined should be the total cost for delivery (i.e. inclusive of travel expenses, etc).

Prices are valid until the end of the contract/agreement. If providers update their pricing schedule after being accepted onto the pool, they will need to re-submit their "Intervention Information Form" (Annex B) to the VRP, outlining the change in intervention costs.

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 submission of a satisfactory monitoring form and approved by the relevant VRP lead.

The VRP will pay invoices within 30 days of its submission provided the VRP agrees the amount of the fee and subject to receipt of approved monitoring. Providers are required to submit their invoice at the end of each quarter. If you require an alternative payment arrangement, please stipulate this in your application.

Please submit your invoice to the VRP - vrp@westmidlands.police.uk

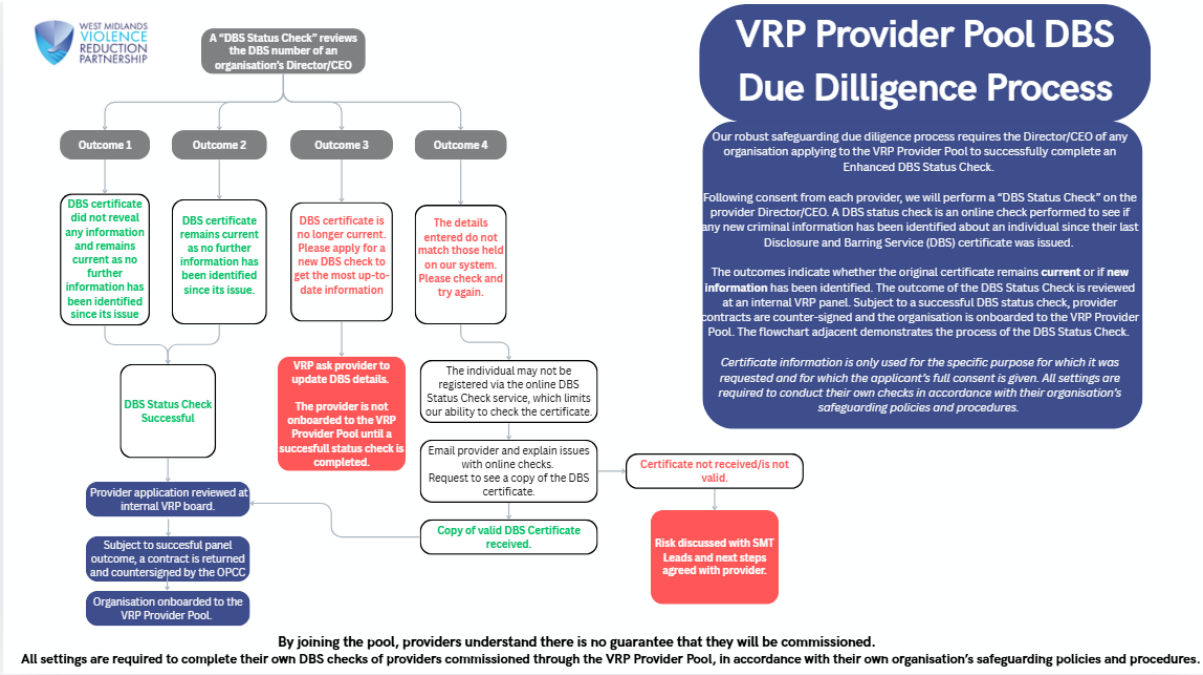
8. Project Timescales and Implementation

Task	Anticipated Completion Date
Closing date for receipt of applications made via our online form.	**Open ended**
Award Contract	**tbc**
Contract Commencement Date	**tbc**
Contract End Date	**31 March 2027**
Contract Extension	**Option to extend for up to 2 years dependent on VRP funding and strategic need**

9. Contact for any queries

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

Annex A – DBS Safeguarding Due Diligence Process



Annex B – Intervention Information Form

Please see excel document named 'Intervention Information Form'