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West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership Evaluation

St GILES IN-REACH CUSTODY PILOT

Phase Two: Feasibility Impact Evaluation Summary Report

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Executive Summary

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (WMVRP) commissioned St Giles to deliver a Reachable Moments In-Reach Custody Pilot in October 2022.

The WMVRP identified a gap in delivery, in that there was not previously a custody-based service that utilised lived experience caseworkers to respond to immediate risks and incidents with children and young people when they were brought into police custody.

The aim of the Reachable Moments In-Reach Custody Pilot is to embed credible lived experience and culturally competent caseworkers into two of the main custody suites across the West Midlands Police force area to reduce re-offending among children and young people. The St Giles In-Reach Custody Pilot utilises the Reachable Moment as a means to support children and young people at risk of, or entrenched in, serious violence, groomed through criminal exploitation, or with previous criminal justice involvement.

For a small number of children and young people a follow up service (Outreach) in the community can also be offered following the In-Reach Reachable Moment. The Outreach service is an internal St Giles referral for those identified to have complex needs from the initial custody intervention. If the young person agrees and consents to further support in the community upon release, the caseworker will build on the initial intervention and offer a more 1:1 intensive holistic support through tailored action and safety planning.

This report presents a feasibility impact evaluation, which assesses the readiness of the data and evidence surrounding the custody pilot to enable future full impact evaluation of the desired outcomes[1]. The aims of the evaluation were to:

- assess the readiness of the data and evidence surrounding the St Giles In-Reach Custody Pilot to enable a full impact evaluation.
- assess the possibility of measuring the desired outcomes accurately and consistently.
- assess whether St Giles are achieving their desired outcomes.
- run a simulation of the analysis on available data.

What we did

Feasibility of Impact

[1] Full impact evaluations (Level 4 on The Evaluation Hierarchy) are complex and pose c
over a long-term period as well as dealing with data quality issues. Outcome or imp
significant resource investment and a sufficient amount of robust data. Therefor
ensure that such resources are utilised in the most efficient way possible.

We first undertook an assessment of the methodology and design considerations necessary to conduct a statistically reliable impact evaluation of the programme.
Research questions:

1. What data are available for a full impact evaluation?
2. Are the outcomes recorded with statistical rigour?
3. What sample sizes would be required?
4. Could we evaluate long-term impact? If so, over what time-period?
5. Is it possible to include a control group?
6. What analysis would be possible?

Simulation Impact Study and Analysis of Outcomes
Next, we accessed data collected by St Giles on:

- Demographics, reasons for arrest, immediate outcomes and support offered for each child or young person that engages in the service (immediate outcomes).
- For children and young people that engage in further Outreach services, long-term outcomes are recorded and updated weekly or after any further interaction with the young person. Tracks continued journey of support.

We also worked with West Midlands Police to access custody data to confirm whether a sample of individuals had been re-arrested since engagement with St Giles, and track journey of support.

KEY FINDINGS

Data were available for 645 service users that accessed the St Giles In-Reach Custody programme from April to December 2024. Service users were aged between 10 and 25 years, most were male (85.7%), and the most commonly ethnic group recorded was White - British (35.7%), followed by Pakistani (15.0%), and Black - Caribbean (14.4%).

Immediate outcomes
The immediate outcomes represent what type of support service users were given by caseworkers during the Reachable Moment in custody.

- 45.1% of cases showed that individuals were supported in making positive decisions
- 97.5% of cases recorded raised awareness of safety and consequences
- 13.3% of individuals were encouraged towards education, training, or employment
- 87.1% of cases gained awareness of the Criminal Justice System
- 33.2% of individuals were informed about negative peer influences and healthy relationships
- 95% of individuals reported a reduction in stress and anxiety

The analysis indicates high engagement rates and positive immediate outcomes in awareness and decision-making. However, inconsistencies in data reporting pose challenges for deeper analysis. A substantial amount of missing data in key areas such as education, peer relationships, and Outreach support highlights the need for improved tracking and documentation processes.

While the programme appears effective in reducing stress and increasing awareness of the criminal justice system, areas such education, training, and employment (ETE) initiatives may require further development.

Long-term outcomes

The long-term outcomes data is only available for Outreach cases, which is a much smaller subset of service users (N = 16). Service users received a different number of sessions depending on their willingness to engage: some accessed two sessions and others as many as 19.

- Descriptive statistics highlighted key trends, with significant improvements observed in areas such as relationships, confidence, and social bonds
- Other outcomes, like reduction in missing episodes, showed more variable results.
- There was a consistent positive impact in "Improved relationships" for service users
- There was a mixed experience for service users in "Support to establish support networks"
- Factor analysis identified four key dimensions within the dataset: Personal Development and Self-Efficacy, Behavioural Changes and Social Support, Social and Relational Outcomes, and Substance Use and Attitudes Towards Authority. These factors effectively summarise service users' progress across different intervention areas, reinforcing the holistic nature of the programme
- Correlation analysis further highlights the interconnections between intervention outcomes, particularly between education and employment engagement, confidence-building, and reductions in substance misuse. These findings support the view that structured, multi-agency interventions play a crucial role in improving long-term behavioural and social outcomes

The high levels of participant engagement indicate that the programme has been successful in reaching young people at risk. However, the analysis also reveals inconsistencies in data reporting and gaps in key outcome areas, particularly in education, peer relationships, and Outreach support, which have limited the ability to conduct deeper statistical analyses.

West Midlands Police data: re-arrest

Re-arrest data provided by West Midlands Police formed a vital strand of the analysis. When triangulated with the immediate and long-term outcomes, it could help build a clearer understanding of the programme's impact. At the time of reporting work with West Midlands Police was still in their development towards a full impact evaluation during 2025/26.

- Of the 178 completed records, 39 have records of been re-arrested since engagement with St Giles
- 139 had no record of re-arrest since engagement with St Giles.
- Of the 39 individuals with records of re-arrest, the majority had records of one re-arrest. However, one individual had records of seven re-arrests.

The West Midlands Police data currently suffers in terms of missing and/or incomplete data, and technical and practical implications. These will be addressed during the evaluation in 2025/26.

Full technical details of the methods, analysis, and detailed statistical output and can be found in the full report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for St Giles

1. **Enhance data collection and reporting practices:**
    a. Address inconsistencies in data entry by implementing standardised tracking systems and increasing staff training on data recording.
    b. Accurately track what referrals or signposting to other services was done to show wider impact of the programme.
2. **Expand Education, Training, and Employment support:**

a. For Outreach cases, consider recording education, training and employment status at the start of support to track changes in this outcome more accurately.
b. Consider strengthening access to vocational training, apprenticeships, and job placement services to ensure more service users receive long-term employability support.
c. Increase targeted interventions for those disengaged from education or struggling with attendance and engagement.

3. **Broaden Multi-Agency Collaboration:**
    a. Strengthen partnerships with educational institutions and family support services to ensure sustained engagement beyond the immediate intervention period.

Recommendations for the WMVRP

4. Continue to offer support with data collection, ensure that each monitoring return is checked for missing data or anomalies before submission.
5. Continue to work with WMP to support data collection, ensure data crosschecks are recorded accurately and consistently.

Recommendations for further evaluation

6. **Timing:** The evaluation needs to be conducted within an appropriate timeframe, which means allowing enough time for the intervention to have an observable impact but not too much time that other factors influence the outcomes.
7. **Quality of Outcomes:** The availability of baseline data and post-intervention data is crucial to evaluate change over time. The quality and relevance of the data are also key considerations. Consider the implementation of validated assessment tools for Outreach cases where it would be more feasible to carry out data collection.

By implementing these recommendations, the St Giles Custody Pilot programme can further enhance its impact, improve long-term outcomes for service users, and ensure that key intervention areas continue to evolve in response to emerging needs. A more comprehensive and structured approach to data collection will be essential to maximising the programme's effectiveness and sustainability.