



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

26th September 2023

Title: Preventing and Reducing Crime - Reducing Serious Youth Violence

Presented by: C/Supt Kim Madill

Strategy

1. West Midlands Police (WMP) formally published its strategy to tackle Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime earlier this year. The strategy was widely consulted upon with both internal and external stakeholders and the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP). It recognises the drivers of Serious Youth Violence and provides a long-term commitment for WMP to work with and influence partnerships in line with responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 and Working Together guidance to tackle the contextual and environmental issues that make children vulnerable to exploitation and associated threats relating to Serious Youth Violence.
2. It has 6 priorities, all of which have identified leads within WMP and the VRP
 - a. Safe Spaces
 - b. Criminal Justice
 - c. Offender Focus
 - d. Community Consultation & Engagement
 - e. Public Health Approach
 - f. Coordination across Violence Portfolios
3. Each lead is developing a delivery plan that will ensure that the key actions identified under each priority are implemented and monitored. The leads attend the Strategic Youth Violence Reduction Board chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing and are expected to report on progress to allow the continued coordination across the portfolios. An operational board also meets to ensure a tactical focus is

maintained in order to deliver the overarching aim of reducing Serious Youth Violence.

4. WMP progress in securing and delivering against GRIP funding requirements and targeted guardian patrols is being completed in three phases;

- a. **Phase One (Oct 22-April 23).** This phase was data science led. 57 Targeted Guardian Patrol (TGP) areas were identified through 3 years' worth of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) Data. Volume and harm were taken into consideration and there was consultation with the Violence Lead in the Local Policing Areas (LPAs) before the areas went live. The 57 areas represent 1.4% of the WMP Force area, 18% volume of SYV and 20% harm. This period was testing the impact of a patrol in a small geographical area for optimal length of time, displacement effect and residual impact of the patrol. The patrols were randomised by day and time and 50% of the TGP's were patrolled each day. This phase was supported by technical IT+D solutions – TGP App for officers to Check in and Check Out allowing for their patrol to be GPS tracked, then a compliance dashboard in Qlik to govern and scrutinise the arrival, departure and quality of the patrol. The Ethics Committee are aware of the Random Control Test (RCT) phase and are being kept up to date. All patrol data collected in this Phase is subject to evaluation by WMP Data Lab, a full report is expected in September 2023.
- b. **Phase Two (May 23- Sept 23).** Early indicative data suggests the patrols are effective giving a 5% SYV reduction on the day of the Targeted Guardian Patrol and 41.5% reduction by Day 2 following the patrol. In this Phase officers are still scheduled to patrol, but against the temporal threat – i.e. the time the offences are occurring. The robbery time frame was also included allowing for the patrol to cover both offence types e.g. Birmingham Stephenson St (The Ramp) is 2200-0000 timeframe, this is both the SYV and robbery U25 knife time frame. Compliance in July was the best since TGP methodology was introduced, 73%¹ overall, 75% patrols are led by a Constable and 50 minutes is the average time of the patrol.
- c. **Phase Three (Oct 23).** TGP's are currently under review, both volume and harm of Serious Youth Violence will be considered in this review. This first review of TGP hotspots will consider contemporaneously existing hotspots

¹ 73% represents the compliance since Oct 22 when TGP first launched - 75% of those patrols have been conducted by a Constable - this is monitored to ensure the patrol is done by a warranted officer and not a PCSO (use of powers) 50 minutes is the average time spent on a TGP patrol - this is monitored as 30 minutes is the minimum

in terms of volume and harm. The next layer will add U25 robbery (knife) and U25 robbery (all) to understand how many and how large hotspots will be. A seasonal layer will also be considered.

To support delivery and keeping the model achievable, some hotspots that are purely educational have been removed. The learning from Phase 1 will be considered and data from our VRP and County Lines Task Force will be overlaid, ensuring that care homes and Pupil Referral Unit's (PRU) establishments, habitual knife carriers and gang territory sit within the hotspots reflecting these as drivers of violence and exploitation. This review will ensure Phase 3 is multi-layered with the final assurance and sign off with local Violence Leads. It is envisaged that this work will be operational in October 2023. Longer term, the Problem Orientated Policing (POP) development continues. Guardian Intelligence staff have begun their POP training with the College of Policing and will use this expertise to roll out bespoke training across the Force to local TGP Sergeant owners. Phase 3 of the TGP data refresh in August/September 2023 will determine any new TGPs. Ten of these will be selected as POP areas – a mix of night-time economy, POP only and POP combined will allow WMP to implement a varied approach. One or two TGPs will be subject to an intensive, collaborative Targeted Guardian Partner Approach, which will be looking for a focused partnership solution applied to Victims, Offenders and Locations by treating each with targeted partner/volunteer activity adding a POP layer to the TGP hotspot activity. This will be piloted and evaluated before the end of the Calendar and if successful, will be further rolled out across different areas of the West Midlands.

5. West Midlands Police is a strong collaborative partner of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), playing an active role in both the strategic and operational spaces. The Local Policing Areas (LPA) work closely with the VRP local delivery team and alongside local agencies and communities to deliver prevention activities. West Midlands Police have built strong relationships with the local navigators to support this via the sharing of data/information to help with ensuring that local delivery is data-driven and is as targeted as possible. The data is taken from WMP tasking documents and the Qlik database to ensure that it is both current and informative. The VRP policing lead has been instrumental in bringing local navigators into the tactical deployment of the Project Guardian team and Targeted

Guardian Patrol (TGP) areas, in order to maximise the delivery of the partnership work into the same areas.

6. The daily sharing of incident information from overnight documents aids in preparing the navigators to support the local Threat Risk Management (TRM) meetings and Consequence Management Meeting processes. Information from the Serious Youth Violence Operations Board, namely information/intelligence on habitual knife carriers, will be used to generate letters and home visits to identified individuals offering diversion opportunities. The pilot area for a joint WMP/VRP approach will be Walsall LPA, whereby the support will be jointly led by local officers and the VRP navigator. A future Crimestoppers campaign is being planned and the area of focus has been influenced by the sharing of data/TGP information to help maximise the impact of the campaign as much as possible. This information sharing will support the ambition of the VRP local delivery team to reduce violence through engaging and building resilience within communities.
7. The VRP's policing theme seeks to strengthen the partnership response to support the VRP's influential role in the criminal justice space. The Youth Improvement Board is chaired by the VRP's policing lead. This meeting brings together the seven heads of the Youth Offending Service (YOS), WMP Custody and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). It has been established to improve outcomes and experiences for all children that are either at risk of entering, or within the formal Youth Justice System. Ongoing work includes creating a central dashboard (including capturing data linked to first time entrants, remands and overnight detentions) which will assist in understanding and responding to emerging themes together with supporting local practice and providing an overview of regional performance. In addition, the board is exploring an opportunity to link YOS to faith services through a suitable referral pathway and also improving and standardising the service to YOS by the youth crime officers in light of the new role profile for this being developed by the YJB/NPCC.
8. The VRP's policing lead has facilitated the involvement of the commissioned (resettlement) services into policing forums, more explicitly the Birmingham LPA People (offender) panel, which now enables quick-time discussion on joining up the service(s) to the needs of the young person identified in order to support and divert them from serious violence.
9. The VRP's policing lead has played a key role in the development of the Operation Paramount programme supporting Children Affected by Parental Incarceration

(CAPI) which is recognised as an adverse childhood experience which creates vulnerability within a family. Operation Paramount continues to operate in the north Birmingham area, utilising the Prisoner Intelligence Notification Systems (PINS) software which enables law enforcement agencies to track those entering and leaving the prison estate, and both police and social care data to identify and support the children and families affected by recognised trauma linked to parental incarceration. WMP is only one of two Forces with programmes of work in this area and is offering support to other interested regions.

10. The VRP/OPCC White Ribbon workstream has provided a platform for further WMP involvement and influence. Key to this was the establishment of a Bravespace series, started on International Women's Day, on levels of machismo and misogyny in WMP, attended by members of the VRP and OPCC, and led by the VRP's policing lead. A number of actions from this candid and emotive discussion were generated and were able to be fed into the Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls (EMVAWG) Board, including the support for the commissioning of Dr Jessica Taylor to help design a bespoke police training package for initial delivery to officers and staff with teams who lead on and deal with VAIWG and RASSO offences. The training packages will cover the themes of VAIWG, trauma informed practices and unconscious bias within policing.
11. The VRP's police lead continues to ensure the VRP's influence is captured and supports the delivery of the WMP Strategy to tackle Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime. Examples of this include the strands of Safer Spaces and offender management. WMP is one of the forerunners nationally on becoming a more trauma-aware organisation and the VRP's police lead has been driving this workstream, which is overseen now by the recently formed Trauma Aware Senior Leaders Board (more details of this work in section 7).

Performance and trends

12. Performance for Serious Youth Violence shows that Year to Date the Force is showing a 12.12% reduction. For Serious Youth Violence where a knife was used to cause injury, the Force is showing a 5% reduction.
13. In terms of overall trends, the most common are school related offending, gang related offending, offences linked to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), particularly County Lines (CL) and offending during the night-time, predominantly linked to alcohol consumption. A common trend, particularly observed in Birmingham, is joint enterprise offending against one victim. Trends are also seasonal, during Summer,

offending in open spaces such as parks increases, during Autumn, offending linked to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), in line with Mischief Fortnight, increases, during Winter, alcohol and night-time related offending and during Spring, offending peaks around bank holiday periods.

14. The VRP have facilitated multi-agency conversations across the 7 local authority areas and provided data to demonstrate the risk of a summer violence spike and encouraged localities to work together across local authority services and other agencies to identify where intensive resources are required and to deliver interventions to meet local needs. Each area has local issues impacting on the risk of a spike in violence over the summer and the VRP focused on pulling together local planning groups to understand and prepare for those risks.
15. Last year in Birmingham the VRP facilitated a sub-group of the Birmingham Violence Reduction Board that worked together to develop a multi-agency response to mitigating the risk of a Summer violence spike. The plan included launching an interactive map of primary and secondary activity and interventions available over the summer for children and young people. The map was available on a publicly available website and was promoted to families and schools across the city before the Summer started. The sub-group met 6 times at a youth centre in the city to plan together and professionals received information on interventions and activity available across the city, safe places and how to link in with neighbourhood policing teams. The benefit of this approach meant that providers and agencies could work together more effectively in terms of ensuring that there was the right level of provision, in the right place and we were getting the biggest impact with the resources that were available to us.
16. When the Summer ended last year, the group continued to meet and started planning for Summer 2023. The street-based youth workers, the app, the multi-agency sub-group and the information and awareness raising sessions have all been put in place again and the VRP also provided training sessions for frontline workers delivering activity, focused on violence prevention. It has been agreed that the Summer planning sub-group will remain in place reporting to the Birmingham Violence Reduction Board so this model is consistent and sustainable. This model has been promoted across the regional partnership with each local violence prevention lead and board briefed on the risk of a Summer violence spike and encouraged to develop a plan to mitigate the risks in their local area. VRP Navigators have worked with local violence reduction boards to establish Summer planning working groups which have been meeting to provide the opportunity to prepare for

and understand local issues. Exploration of these issues in each area has led to different activity being delivered over the Summer period.

17. Analytically WMP look at violence with injury (VWI), knife used to cause injury (KUI) and under 25 (years or age) knife-enabled robberies separately in order to isolate those offences that cause most harm. This has helped to identify which areas resources needed to target. This Summer, there has been a particular focus on Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton City Centres and intelligence assessments were prepared which was shared and fed into local tasking (LTDB) boards. This analysis has identified 57 hotspots of serious youth violence (using data of a 3-year period). Officers are scheduled to patrol these areas at the optimum times to reduce offending. These patrols are known locally as Targeted Guardian Patrols (TGPs). Officers are encouraged to engage with the community during these patrols and are able to focus on intervention, with the ability to make referrals via their VRP Navigators by using a bespoke Guardian APP on their handheld device. Early analysis shows that these targeted patrols have had a positive impact on incident numbers and are cost effective in terms of the cost of the crime versus the cost of the patrol.
18. The VRP are leading regional and facilitating local activity, to support the West Midlands response to the Serious Violence Duty. Over 2,500 professionals have attended online workshops which seek to set out the requirements of the Duty. This has ensured widespread understanding across sectors.
19. The Home Office have commissioned Crest Advisory, independent crime and justice specialists, to undertake readiness assessments across the 43 police force areas which has resulted locally in a judgement of 'preparing'. The Regional Violence Reduction Strategic Board are content with this judgment in terms of the progress and it reflects the agreement that each local area will create a local partnership and produce a local needs assessment and delivery plan. In addition, the Board has supported the development of a regional violence strategy which will include the priorities for each local area. The strategy will be co-produced with the local violence reduction partnerships and informed by consultation with communities and young people. Crest will be providing some support to the region which will consist of a rapid review of the 7 local Strategic Needs Assessments, highlighting common themes, trends and priorities. This will inform the overarching regional strategy. In addition, they will develop a draft performance framework which will support understanding of the impact of the work being delivered both regionally and locally.

Delivery update

20. WMP are becoming a more trauma-aware organisation, driven by the objectives and accountability of the Senior Leaders Trauma-Aware Board. The College of Policing have included trauma awareness on their priority list and along with the NPCC, have adopted the Office for Health, Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) definition. The VRP were represented at a recent Trauma Aware CPD event in Preston, presenting on the work in custody and the police process for strategic oversight through the aforementioned board. This included presenting on the changes in custody, such as the artwork/clocks, distraction packs access and the background work on the PIC access to toughbooks (tablets with diversion content)
21. The WMP training programme is a standing agenda item at the Trauma Aware Board. The next department to receive the Barnardo's training will be Force Contact, scheduled in for eight training dates between August and December, aiming to train 300-400 staff/officers. Work continues with WMP Learning and Development department to roll out training to the new recruit cohorts. Ten cohorts will be trained between August and December. Future proposed departments include Police Professional Standards Department, Forensic services and more local policing staff.
22. The custody innovation and trauma-aware work, which was started in 2021, was recently subject to an internal evaluation by a University of Wolverhampton research team, partnered with the VRP. The research teams conducted the evaluation on the influence of trauma informed training on police practice in custody over a period of 3-4 months. The methodology included interviewing custody sergeants and staff, as well as reviewing the pre/post trauma aware training surveys. The results were positive and it was concluded that the training was effective at improving the knowledge around trauma, behaviours and responses, and there was overall system support for it. The results suggested a positive influence on police practices and staff that were more focused on interventions in custody, and recognising their role in preventing of crime by prioritising risk factors with partners. This knowledge has supported the understanding of staff in valuing the in-custody service provision, including the VRP funded St-Giles Lived Experienced Mentoring Service operating out of the two superblocks. An app for force mobile devices, which holds a library of information on trauma, impact of trauma and trauma-informed practice went live on 10th August 2023.
23. The local Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) delivery team continue to work in local places with partner agencies and communities to co-ordinate violence

prevention activity. They play a key role in disruption planning meetings and consequence management meetings, providing access and signposting to support services to stop the transmission of violence following incidents of serious violence.

24. Relationships with education settings continue to improve and extend across the region which has supported the promotion and delivery of the VRP primary prevention offer. During quarter 1 2023/24, over 50 education settings were either offered training or were supported following an incident of serious violence. The primary prevention offer, which focuses on school-based interventions, has continued to build momentum and traction with colleges and universities. This extends our reach to teaching staff/professionals and builds knowledge and capacity in the system, supporting our priority of creating a trauma informed workforce across the region and reaches approximately 2,000 children and professionals every month. The training provides an awareness around violence and exploitation and the students learn about personal safety, grooming and the importance of making good choices.
25. In addition, delivery of virtual reality programmes (Round Midnight) and gangs and youth violence training (REAL) is having a positive impact across the region with the development of new resources focusing on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), exploitation, substance misuse and self-harm. These products will be part of the widescale roll out of our primary prevention offer.
26. In addition to education institutions, the primary prevention offer is reaching a range of other organisations and agencies including Youth Services, Community Centres, and Faith Institutions. In Solihull, the WMP early help officers are also trained and there are ongoing talks with Travel West Midlands and McDonalds, raising awareness around exploitation and youth violence and providing information on how to respond and report.

Education

27. The Education Team are exploring Violence Reduction Plans with Local Policing Areas and priority schools following a pilot within Sandwell. Each secondary school in Sandwell (19) now has a Plan and the Navigators in the other six local authority areas are working to develop a similar approach throughout the next academic year.
28. Step Together Home Office funding finished at the end of the 2022/23 academic year. The VRP have committed to funding existing routes until the end of December 2023 and are leading discussions around local funding for sustainability.

29. Work continues supporting schools to understand and engage with the Serious Violence Duty and education system leaders came together for the first time in the newly established regional strategic education group in June. A number of priorities were identified in particular how we can work together to reduce exclusions and support a more effective managed move and exclusion process, where this is the right option.
30. Work is underway with the ARK Trust, which is a multi-academy trust consisting of both secondary and primary schools, who has been identified as the education provider to benefit from the Trauma Informed Education Pilot which is due for delivery to start in Autumn term of 23/24 academic year. This pilot will work with professionals and whole schools across the Trust, providing training on a trauma informed approach as well as reviewing policies and behaviours within the school and ultimately will seek to develop the evidence for trauma informed practice with an education focus.

Health

31. The Health Delivery Manager continues to attend and present on the role of health in violence prevention at a range of health networks (GP safeguarding leads, local GP networks, ICB safeguarding networks).
32. Trauma informed training is currently being tailored for health practitioners which will be delivered by the VRP. Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB) is supporting access to GP networks to deliver training. The Black Country ICB has established a Serious Violence Duty Steering Group to focus on readiness, linking in with VRP data team and OHID in relation to data sharing.
33. Work with West Midlands Ambulance is progressing well to provide domestic abuse (DA) training to their pool of trainers who will subsequently roll out to their paramedics. The training includes understanding DA/signs to look for/practical ways to respond and pathways. Training is currently being developed which will be delivered in the Autumn to the trainers, and subsequently launched, first to the Black Country hubs, and following feedback and refinement will be rolled out wider.
34. The VRP Clinical lead presented alongside Professor Jonathan Shepherd to a conference of Emergency Medicine Clinicians in Birmingham, on the value of data sharing and wider opportunities for health to make a difference in violence prevention. She also continues to work on authoring NHSE rapid read products and associated clinical guidelines together with supporting a number of Trusts on work to address violence against healthcare staff.

35. The VRP have been attending the Safer Students (Colleges) network to promote the VRP universal offer and working in conjunction with the Combined Authority to create a mental health support pilot.
36. Work with the Black Country School's Mental Health Support Team is in progress with plans to co-facilitate events over the summer for young people to offer support and advice around their mental health and wellbeing. The VRP will also be collaborating with the school's teams to provide workshops and support for parents/carers.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

37. The VAWG Navigator has continued to focus on engaging with schools and encouraging the sign up for Timetotalk. There has continued to be a real interest across the West Midlands region. The Navigator has promoted the programme through stakeholder meetings, school link officers and designated safeguarding leads. Timetotalk was recommissioned to be delivered to an additional 60 schools across the West Midlands by the VRP and OPCC. This project has been designed to align with the recommendations of Ofsted's review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges (June 2021) and the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girl's Strategy (Home Office, Nov 2021), whilst also supporting the West Midlands Sexual Abuse and Assault Strategy (2020-2023).
38. The VRP receives frequent requests for advice from schools (regarding factors around VAWG/Harmful Sexual Behaviour/misogyny) and plays an active role advising schools and linking them to resources or interventions and providing advice.
39. The Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls monthly webinar continues to be a real success, delivered to professionals across the West Midlands reaching around 60 professionals per month. The demographics of attendees show that we are reaching a real mix of individuals from different professions. During the webinar VAWG Navigator has been able to promote the #Timetotalk project as well as the VRP core offer.
40. The VAWG Navigator commissioned The Dog Duck Cat Trust to co-develop four short stories that focus on consent, healthy relationships, secrets and surprises and gender stereotypes for early years settings. There are stories for ages 3-4 and 5-6 which can be chosen by the professional depending on the children's level of understanding. During this quarter we launched The Ask Series which has been shared with Early Years settings across the West Midlands, the feedback has been

incredibly positive. The focus is now on developing resources to promote the Ask series, including how we can encourage parents/carers to access the free resource.

41. The VRP Navigator has been in contact with universities across Birmingham regarding a training package for staff and students following a gap being identified in support and education for higher education and further education settings. This programme of support is being developed and led by the VAWG Navigator with the support of safeguarding teams in the Universities. Violence Against Women and Girls continues to be a significant issue within these environments and one that we hope to tackle with the support of staff and embedding of programmes and training. This package will be piloted across Birmingham, With the intention to 'lift and shift' to other areas across the West Midlands.

Sport

42. The Sport & Violence Prevention Partnership met in May to workshop the findings of the 2023 Community Sport Re-Audit and outline ongoing plans to monitor progression against the West Midlands Sport & Violence Prevention Strategy.
43. The Walsall Violence Prevention Programme continues to support the four Locally Trusted organisation (LTOs) who were commissioned by the VRP via StreetGames and Active Black Country to provide more intentionally targeted support to young people in the Caldmore, Palfrey and Pleck Wards. The funded period ended in quarter 1 but we remain committed to supporting those locally trusted organisations (LTOs) to secure additional funding to maintain and grow their offer.
44. Work continues to align projects from the WM PCC Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund to the shared visions outlined in the Sport and Violence Reduction Strategy and to grow the evidence base for sport as a violence prevention intervention. A monitoring and evaluation framework has been created by StreetGames and shared with the five organisations following a monitoring, evaluation and learning workshop led by StreetGames on 14th June.
45. Work has been progressing with Birmingham's Youth Justice Service to support a number of LTOs to access and become a key part of the local Turnaround Programme supporting young people vulnerable to entering the criminal justice system to access high quality community sport and sport plus (volunteering, mentoring, leadership, qualifications) opportunities.

Exploitation and Abuse

46. The Exploitation Navigator has been working with Local Policing Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation (SOCEX) teams to explore the use of civil interventions and evidence-led prosecutions to strengthen safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults and is exploring opportunities to pilot place-based approaches for tackling symptoms of exploitation and extra-familial harms experienced in communities.
47. There is a review of the Exploitation and Missing Board to understand what opportunities exist to bring it closer together with the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Board. The delivery plans are being developed to ensure a public health approach and a decision will be taken later in the year in terms of future structures and governance.
48. The VRP is leading work to develop a risk assessment tool which will ensure a contextual safeguarding approach. This will provide a more consistent approach to understanding and responding to risk across the region.
49. There will be a key focus over the next year on bringing the exploitation work further upstream, in recognition that each local area now have well established exploitation hubs and processes to identify and respond to all forms of exploitation. As well as work to develop early intervention and prevention and build awareness within communities, there will be a focus on transitions and improving all age exploitation responses.

Criminal Justice

50. One of the focuses of the VRP in the criminal justice work stream has been on diversionary interventions to provide support for those impacted by violence. In particular, the VRP has focused on support through resettlement and desistance projects with the aim to prevent people from getting involved in activities that lead to violent crime in the first instance and reduce offending and re-offending. The VRP also recognise the importance of empowering holistic wrap-around support which includes support for those families impacted by serious violence. From the identified gap in relation to support for parents of those young people involved in the CJS, the VRP commission a parent specific support service. The VRP commission a range of providers across the West Midlands under the criminal justice strand.
51. The VRP commissions targeted re-settlement and support services for young people (aged up to 18) and adults (18-30) who are identified as either gang members or who are associated with serious violence and criminality. Projects are delivered in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry and provide a range of support to

young people leaving prison as part of their resettlement programme as well as support for young people at serious risk of violence.

52. The VRP have commissioned a pilot project in the North-East area of Birmingham called Operation Paramount. It was launched in September 2022 and recognises and supports children affected by Parental Imprisonment launched in September 2022. Children and families of those incarcerated are often described as being victims of a 'hidden sentence'. There is no systematic identification of families and children of prisoners, which make estimations of their number difficult. The lack of coordinated efforts in identifying this group and their hidden nature also means that they are not only socially isolated and disadvantaged, but their needs are not known and so they may lack the right help, they may be at risk of unsuitable care arrangements, and can face a host of negative effects in their lives that, research indicates, extends far into the future in a cycle of intergenerational disadvantage or crime. This is despite the fact parental imprisonment presents a distinct opportunity for early intervention.
53. Through the Op Paramount pilot we are identifying in a systematic way those children and young people impacted by a parent in their household being incarcerated. 'Children Heard and Seen' are the commissioned organisation that provide support for children identified and the person caring for them by introducing a worker to deliver support for families in the pilot area. The VRP has commissioned a Case Worker to support a case load of 30 families in the pilot area. Support is delivered with a focus on breaking the cycle of intergenerational offending, raising aspirations and improving emotional wellbeing.
54. The VRP launched a Custody In-reach pilot programme which provides support through credible lived experience mentors for young people at risk of or entrenched in serious violence, groomed through criminal exploitation and criminal justice involvement. The intervention provides preventative work in a 'reachable moment' focusing on addressing underlying issues and helping to increase the safety and reduce the risk for those young people who have been arrested. During October 2022 – March 2023, the project supported a total of 119 young people across the two custody sites. In quarter 1, a total of 143 Young people were seen across the two sites. In addition, caseworkers were also be called upon when already on-site to act as appropriate adults (AA) when the agreed AA has failed to attend in a time effective way thus extending the time a young person was held in Custody. The pilot project sought to reduce the pressure and demand on the home Office rescue and response service workers having to act as AA in custody.

55. The VRP supported the Leicestershire and Rutland, Greater Manchester and London Violence Reduction Networks and other youth-focused organisations including UK Youth, NCS Trust and Ingeus to deliver the first ever 'Hope Hack' workshop in a secure estate. Workshops were facilitated with 60 young people discussing mental health, education and access to services. Hope Hack is part of a national initiative designed to engage young people in finding solutions to a fairer society and safer communities.
56. The VRP commissioned the delivery of an innovative resettlement-focused intervention in HMYOI Brinsford prison which aimed to help the young adult's rehabilitation and desistance journey by facilitating a shift towards pro-social identity in line with constructive resettlement. This project supported 11 young adults and other beneficiaries included prison staff and approximately 60 community members. The young adults had the opportunity to unleash their creative outlet and work on a short film that they starred in, created and directed. The young people co-produced a music cover for the film and created the film content using their own lived experience to highlight the challenges in society and prison and demonstrate what effective support to aid resettlement in custody can look like.
57. **Community Initiative to Reduce Violence CIRV (Coventry and Wolverhampton)**
- the Youth Endowment Fund and Home Office are investing £2 million to test focused deterrence projects across two sites in the West Midlands – Coventry and Wolverhampton. The project strategy is on focused deterrence which combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it. The VRP have played an active role in supporting the development of CIRV which launched in May 2023. It brings together the police, local councils, community organisations, health services, schools, colleges and probation services. It works by identifying and targeting individuals (aged 14-years and over) in a local area who are involved – or are at risk of becoming involved - in serious violence. By drawing on the collective resources and expertise of the partners, individuals are offered tailored support. This can include mentoring, access to education, training and employment opportunities, mental health services, housing advice or other services that address underlying issues in their lives, relationships or neighbourhoods. Where the offer of support is turned down and their violent behaviour continues, swift police and legal sanctions will be enforced.

58. The Faith Alliance network has continued to grow this quarter, from 370 members to 413 members. The terms of reference for the Alliance is currently being updated and plans continue towards the development of a 3-year strategy which will be informed by a regional survey, a strategy day for Faith Alliance members, a strategy workshop for young people and a network gathering and Strategy launch event.
59. The VRP continues to support networks of churches and mosques who have requested assistance in developing local authority-wide faith-based youth provision offers (e.g. Coventry, Wolverhampton and Birmingham) and Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership 'Safeguarding in Faith Communities' project.
60. The VRP continue to advocate nationally with NPCC, Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) and other violence reduction units to increase their engagement with faith communities when developing strategies to reduce violence.
61. A blog has been published on the work of the Faith Alliance via the Clewer Initiative website <https://theclewerinitiative.org/blog/faith-based-approaches-to-violence-reduction> and a podcast published on the work of the FA with NWG [Episode 17- Role of Faith Leaders in the context of Safeguarding. by NWG Network \(spotify.com\)](#)
62. The new Walsall Faith Leaders Network was launched on Monday, 19th June at Walsall Town Hall where we had a further opportunity to promote the role of the work of the Faith Alliance.
63. Over the next two years the VRP local delivery team will have a focus on community engagement and community development in order to support and empower communities in their role to reduce violence. This will build on work already taking place and seek to ensure that our ambition to work with and for communities is a reality. We continue to support community engagement projects including the YEF Neighbourhood Project in Lozells and also the development of the Hillfields Neighbourhood Plan in Coventry.
64. The VRP have commissioned Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) to develop the Youth Assembly. To date, 18 young people have applied to be part of this movement which will complement other mechanisms and platforms that already exist for young people to share their experiences and inform the way services are understood and delivered. PYF will be supporting young people to design and deliver a young person's violence prevention conference in October 2023.