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Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP) Board

Terms of Reference (ToR)

November 2023

# distribution list and SVRP membership

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agency | Specified or Relevant Authority[[1]](#footnote-1) | Name & Role / Partner | Date Sent |
| Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) | N/A | PCC (Chair)Head of Commissioning | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| ViolenceReductionUnit (VRU) | N/A | VRU DirectorVRU ManagersHampshire and Isle of Wight Together (HIOWT) Engagement Lead VRU Programmes and Projects Officer  | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Police | Specified Authority  | Assistant Chief ConstableStrategic Lead for Serious ViolenceTactical Lead, Violence Crime Taskforce | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service (HRFS) | Specified Authority | Assistant Director Operations | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Youth Justice Service (YJS) | Specified Authority | Southampton YJ ManagerPortsmouth YJ ManagerHampshire YJ ManagerIOW YJ Manager | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Health – Integrated Care Boards | Specified Authority | Representation from Hampshire and Isle of WightNHS England Public Health Lead | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Local Authorities  | Specified Authority | Representation from PortsmouthRepresentation from Southampton Representation from FarehamRepresentation from GosportRepresentation from WinchesterRepresentation from New Forest District Representation from RushmoorRepresentation from Test ValleyRepresentation from Eastleigh Representation from East HantsRepresentation from Basingstoke and Dean  | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Probation | Specified Authority | Representation from Probation  | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Education | Relevant Authority | Representation by local authorities | N/A |
| Prison Service  | Relevant Authority | Representation from HMP Winchester | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |
| Voluntary Sector |  | Representation from Action Hampshire | Version 2 - 02/11/2023 |

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# introduction

The Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP) has been established to develop and deliver a Strategy to address the root causes of serious violence in our communities, based on the findings obtained within the [Strategic Needs Assessment](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents) (SNA)[[2]](#footnote-2) . This is in accordance with the Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Statutory Guidance.

The SVD under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC Act) requires Specified and Relevant Authorities to come together to share data to understand drivers of serious violence and develop clear plans to combat this, with a focus on public space violence.

Within Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS), the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) are responsible for leading on this approach and their core function is to offer leadership and strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence by working collaboratively with all Partners within the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), promoting a Public Health[[3]](#footnote-3) and Trauma Informed[[4]](#footnote-4) Approach.

The VRP recognises that tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone and requires a collaborative Partnership approach.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hampshire and Isle of Wight will chair the SVRP as part of the ‘convening’ role for PCC’s to bring together the VRP through the SVRP and sub-groups[[5]](#footnote-5), under the SVD. Refer to figure 1.

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Figure 1

# vision and mission

Our ***vision*** is for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to be a place where people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.

Our ***mission*** is to prevent violence by building a collaborative, courageous and sustainable Partnership which will drive the change required to successfully address the causes and consequences of violence.

# aims and activities linked to the theory of change (toc)

The SVRP will oversee the delivery of the VRP Response Strategy, offering leadership and strategic coordinationof the local response to serious violence, which is captured within the [VRP Theory of Change](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents) (ToC)[[6]](#footnote-6).

The following activities will be delivered by the SVRP, in alignment with the ToC[[7]](#footnote-7).

* Engage Executive level leaders in the SVRP to drive and support multi-agency local delivery which is sustainable, Trauma Informed and builds on existing structures and resources (1.a).
* Coproduce and actively support delivery of a Response Strategy to reduce harm and meet the SVD in response to the SNA (1.b)

In addition the SVRP will;

* Carry out the functions of the ‘VRU Core Group’ (as defined in the VRU Grant Agreement) and oversee the VRU Delivery Plan.
* Oversee the SVD Grant Delivery Plan.
* Ensure Partner resources are available to deliver the Response Strategy, developing sustainable and collaborative ways of working.
* Explore opportunities for co-location of teams and secondments between organisations.
* Communicate and embed an understanding of the need for a Public Health and Trauma Informed Approach in all member agencies.

The scope of the SVRP is defined by the VRP definition of serious violence.

The SVRP will also seek to align the Response Strategy to complement existing Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) and broader strategies.

Other relevant and important aspects of violence that are monitored effectively by Partnerships in other forums will be linked by membership to the SVRP:

* Serious Organised Crime other than County Drug Lines and Misuse of Class A Drugs.
* Delivery of services in partner organisations not linked to serious violence.
* Domestic Abuse.
* Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG).

# crest advisory recommendations

The Home Office commissioned Crest Advisory to assess the VRP’s readiness to meet the SVD and made necessary recommendations to the Partnership to reach maturity[[8]](#footnote-8).

The following recommendations are recorded in the [Crest Advisory Readiness Tracker](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents), which will be considered and delivered by the SVRP[[9]](#footnote-9):

* Partners should consider existing work being done by the central VRU and the former ‘spoke’ VRU’s and incorporate a gaps analysis in the development of the Strategy (2.1).
* Ensure that the central VRU’s strategy covers the breath of the four local authority areas, and that partners jointly feed into the strategy development (2.2).
* Set expectations with all Specified Authorities on what they are expected to contribute to the Duty (4.1).
* Disseminate a centralised message to practitioners in each area, clearly defining the roles, responsibilities and remits under the Duty for each partner authority (4.2).
* Partners should place a focus on a Public Health model, in particular understanding the prevalence of risk factors and the effectiveness of the universal prevention activity when developing and updating data and information sharing agreements across the Partnership and with commissioned services (7.3).

Once a recommendation has been achieved, the Crest Advisory Readiness Tracker will be updated and the SVRP ToR will also be revised to reflect this.

# outcomes based performance framework

The VRU has developed an [Outcomes Based Performance Framework](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents) on behalf of the VRP to track performance progress for each strategic area, under the SVRP, to reduce serious violence.

The impact of activity from the SVRP should be measured by the following elements[[10]](#footnote-10) of the Performance Framework, which will be monitored and reported on quarterly:

* Serious Violence is reduced across Hampshire and Isle of Wight and will be measured by:
* ICB data: number of hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object - Home Office measure (1.1.1.a)
* Constabulary: number of police recorded knife-enabled serious violence incidents - Home office measure (1.1.1.b)
* Constabulary: number of police recorded non-domestic homicides - Home office measure (1.1.1.c)

The Police will present more detailed updates on serious violence at the SVRP.

# BOARD MEMBER responsibilities

Under the Serious Violence Duty, the following Specified Authorities are required to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence:

* Police
* Justice (Probation Services and Youth Justice Service)
* Fire and Rescue Service
* Health (Integrated Care Boards)
* Local Authorities (District and County Councils)

The following Relevant Authorities are also expected to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence:

* Prison Service
* Education

The responsibility from each member of this group is to represent their organisation by ensuring the following is achieved:

* Provide links to key partnership boards and will champion a Public Health, Trauma Informed Approach to serious violence in their agency.
* Advocate for information and data sharing to take a ‘problem solving’ approach to tackling serious violence.
* Challenge each other to focus on solutions and interventions where there is an evidence base to show ‘what works’.
* Be open to and provide support to other Partners, sharing best practice.
* Understand the requirements of the SVD and collaborate to improve the HIPS wide response.
* Board members will take responsibility for ensuring that the organisation they represent meets the requirements of the PCSC Act 2022.
* Ensure responsibility and accountability for:
* Oversight and strategic direction of the VRU
* Oversight of the VRU Grant expenditure
* Oversight of the SVD Grant expenditure

The SVRP replaces the VRU ‘Core Group’ and has expanded the membership to include Specified Authorities under the PCSC Act 2022.

It is important to note that the Core Group is a requirement of the VRU Grant agreement, therefore any member of the SVRP is a member of the Core Group and will have a Partnership voice on VRU Grant decisions (regardless of not being signatories of the three year VRU Grant Agreement).

# reporting relationships

The VRU will provide ‘returns’ on Grant spend to the Home Office, in line with the Grant agreement. These returns will be submitted by the VRU Director and shared with the SVRP.

The Chairs of each sub-group under the SVRP will provide updates from these Working Groups.

The Terms of Reference, membership and actions of the SVRP will be shared with the Home Office.

# meeting frequency and format

Meetings will be held quarterly and in person as part of the PCC’s Strategic Partnership Day (SPD), which seeks to bring Executive level leaders together to discuss:

* Homicide
* Serious Violence
* Substance Abuse

# administration

The OPCC will manage all invites and book venues as part of the Strategic Partnership Board.

Actions and attendees will be recorded and published by the VRU to monitor progress against the strategic objectives.

1. As stated within the Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Statutory Guidance, December 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) allows us to understand data through analysis around which communities are impacted by serious violence and what we know about the root causes of violence. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The World Health Organisation (WHO) provided a 4-step process for implementing a Public Health Approach, which the Home Office has promoted as a methodology to tackle serious violence:

Surveillance

Identify Risk and Protective Factors

Develop and Evaluate Interventions

Implementation [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Trauma Informed Approach focuses on ‘what has happened to this person, rather than ‘what is wrong with this person’. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Existing VRP sub-groups across HIPS are:

[Tactical Violence Reduction Partnership (TVRP)](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents)

[Data and Analysis Working Group (DAWG)](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents)

[Engagement Working Group](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents)

[Communications (Comms) Working Group](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents)

[Interventions, Evaluations and Opportunities (IEO) Working Group](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The ToC is a high level representation of how the VRP’s resources and activities lead to the desired short, medium and long term changes, which will reduce serious violence and risk. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Number per activity aligns to that shown in the VRP Theory of Change. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Recommendations from Crest Advisory (Crime and Justice Specialists) were published in the ‘Joint Readiness Assessment for Hampshire & Isle of Wight’ (published May 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Number per recommendation aligns to that provided by Crest Advisory. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Number per element aligns to that shown in the Outcomes Based Performance Framework. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)