

**Hampshire, Isle of Wight,  
Portsmouth and Southampton  
(HIPS)**

**Violence Reduction Partnership  
(VRP)**

**Response Strategy  
2024 - 2027**



## Foreword



When I ran for election to become a Police and Crime Commissioner, one of my key drivers for doing so was because I knew that there had to be a better way of diverting young people and children away from a life of crime and violence. When I was Leader of Portsmouth City Council, I saw too often children committing serious crime and inflicting great harm on each other and their community. I learnt how violence can spread like a disease as people retaliate or arm themselves in fear of others. Violence reduction, especially for young people, remains a passionate focus for me as a Police and Crime Commissioner, and I am determined that as a partnership we can improve outcomes for individuals and communities.

It remains a great frustration of mine that we see a well-trodden path into violence and exploitation for children excluded from education, unprepared for employment and with challenging family circumstances. We should challenge each other to do something different, and where the system fails, we must change the system. Violence is preventable because the causes of violence are preventable. We have to hear what the communities most impacted are telling us about the solutions to violence. To understand what and who is causing violence, we need to be brave when sharing data, and to focus partnership resources where they are needed most. We need to show young people a positive, pro-social alternative pathway that counters the exploitative narrative into gang mentality and violence.

This strategy is an explanation of how partner agencies will work together to tackle the root causes of violence in our communities by taking a public health approach. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 puts a 'Serious Violence Duty' on agencies to work together. I chair the Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership which will oversee delivery of this strategy. My team in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will work tirelessly to bring practitioners together to innovate and collaborate using robust evidence of what works nationally to make our communities safer.

I will not accept that any child is on an irreversible path to committing Serious Violence. We must be bold in developing solutions and interventions that support our most risky children and young people. We need to show that children on an offending pathway can add value to society and be valued by society through education and employment. I commend this Strategy to public and partners as a start of a journey and I challenge professionals to bring it to life by finding the time to collaborate and make positive changes together.



Donna Jones  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

## Executive Summary

This Response Strategy sets out the direction and activity for the Violence Reduction Partnership from 2024 to 2027. The Serious Violence Duty was introduced under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and requires specified and relevant authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. The Serious Violence Duty requires partnerships to take a multi-agency, public health approach to understand the causes and impact of serious violence, develop a strategic response which focuses on prevention and early intervention, and monitor the impact of this response.

The Serious Violence Duty will be delivered at a Police force-wide level covering Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton with the Violence Reduction Partnership defining serious violence as 'Most Serious Violence (MSV)', robbery, possession of weapon, violent disorder, riot and any violence with injury where a bladed implement was used.

The Violence Reduction Partnership has a vision for Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to be a place where people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence, supported by four strategic objectives:

- 1) The partnership will promote multi-agency working and drive system change.
- 2) The partnership will create a data sharing environment that supports useful analysis and insight.
- 3) The partnership will engage and communicate with a range of voices, including those most affected by serious violence.
- 4) The partnership will commission evidence-based interventions.

The Violence Reduction Partnership has outlined the outcomes that support the strategic objectives, and the long-term impacts these will lead to; these are captured within the Theory of Change. Progress towards achievement of these impacts will be monitored through an Outcomes Based Performance Framework. Robust evaluation of intervention delivery and impact forms an integral part of a public health approach.

There will be an annual review of the Strategic Needs Assessment and Response Strategy which will be published in January and overseen by the Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership.

## Introduction

The underpinning principle behind violence prevention and reduction is that a systems approach, including statutory and non-statutory partners, is better than working individually. This means that all partners have a role to play in reducing and preventing serious violence, especially since the commencement of the Serious Violence Duty - this statutory responsibility is an opportunity for all partnerships to review their approach.

Introduced as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area (this Duty is supported by national [guidance](#), finalised in December 2022). These specified authorities are:

- Police
- Probation
- Youth Justice Service
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authorities

Relevant authorities include prisons, youth custody and education and they are able to co-operate with the specified authorities as necessary.

The Serious Violence Duty requires local partnerships to take a multi-agency, public health approach to understand the causes and effects of serious violence, develop a strategic response focusing on prevention and early intervention, and monitor the impact of this preventative work. The underlying principles of a public health approach applied to serious violence are:

- Violence is preventable
- Interventions are guided by evidence where available and developing the evidence base where it is absent, and informed by data
- Focused on a defined population, often with a health risk in common. Victims, perpetrators and sometimes bystanders are all vulnerable to further involvement in violence
- The approach is with and for communities, reflecting the voices and experiences of the communities served. This should also involve taking a trauma-informed approach
- Commitment to a system-wide approach underpinned by mature and committed partnership arrangements
- Focused on long-term impact, acting on the root causes of the problem as well as short-term consequences and emphasising early intervention.



### How is the VRP meeting the Serious Violence Duty?

Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) will be meeting and delivering the Duty at a force-wide level through the VRP, supported by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) hosted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). A HIPS-wide Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) has been produced in December 2023 to meet the timelines set out in the Serious Violence Duty.

### How is the partnership defining serious violence?

There is no set definition of serious violent crime under the Serious Violence Duty. As such, the HIPS VRP has agreed to focus on reducing serious violence across the following areas:

- Most Serious Violence (MSV)
- Robbery
- Possession of weapons
- Violent disorder
- Riot
- Violence with injury where a bladed implement was used.

Domestic Abuse (DA) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) have not been included specifically due to existing strategies and governance arrangements which focus on these crime types and given the historic focus of the VRU on violence involving under 25s in public places. The scope of the definition will be iterated in line with the evidence base to ensure it adequately captures the extent and nature of serious violence locally which might see types of offending included or excluded from the definition (such as violence against women and girls).

### How do partners plan on preventing and reducing serious violence?

Partners have agreed to focus on preventing and reducing serious violence so that people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence, supported by four strategic objectives.

Strategic Vision	Strategic Objectives
For Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to be a place where people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.	Multi-agency and Systems Change: The partnership will promote multi-agency working and drive systems change.
	Data and Analysis: The partnership will create a data sharing environment that supports useful analysis and insight.
	Engagement and Communications: The partnership will engage and communicate with a range of voices, including those most affected by serious violence.
	Interventions, Evaluations and Opportunities: The partnership will commission evidence-based interventions.

## What does serious violence look like in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton?

One of the core requirements of the Serious Violence Duty is for defined areas to carry out an SNA to identify the types of serious violence that occur locally and, where possible, the causes of that serious violence. An SNA will also help to identify the drivers of serious violence in the local area and the cohorts of people most impacted or at risk.

In December 2023, the HIPS VRP published a collaborative SNA focusing on data from April 2022 to March 2023.<sup>1</sup> The HIPS-wide SNA was produced following production of fourteen distinct District SNA Chapters which were co-produced between the VRU and Community Safety Partnership Analysts based on an agreed serious violence definition and data sources.

Serious violence offences saw a 4% increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 across the HIPS area, with 5123 offences recorded in the 2022/23 financial year. This is the highest number of serious violence incidents across the last five years.

<b>Youth Serious Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 1194 distinct individuals recorded as a victim of serious violence who were aged under 25. This is a 0.3% increase compared to the previous financial year.</li> <li>The most common serious violence offence where the suspect was under 25 was possession of weapons offences (894 offences).</li> </ul>
<b>Possession of weapon offences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possession of weapons offences account for the highest proportion of serious violence offences, at 2166 offences (42%).</li> </ul>
<b>Robbery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 1329 robbery offences in 2022/23 (156 business robberies and 1173 personal robberies), accounting for 26% of serious violence offences.</li> </ul>
<b>Violence with Injury</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 1601 Violence with Injury offences in 2022/23, representing 31% of serious violence offences.</li> </ul>
<b>Homicide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 17 homicides in the 2022/23 financial year, accounting for 0.3% of serious violence offences.</li> </ul>
<b>Juvenile First Time Entrants (FTEs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across the HIPS area, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton all have a higher FTE average compared to the South East area. Hampshire has a lower FTE rate.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The data referenced in this Response Strategy are sourced from Hampshire, Isle of Wight Portsmouth & Southampton Violence Reduction Partnership, *Strategic Needs Assessment December 2023*.

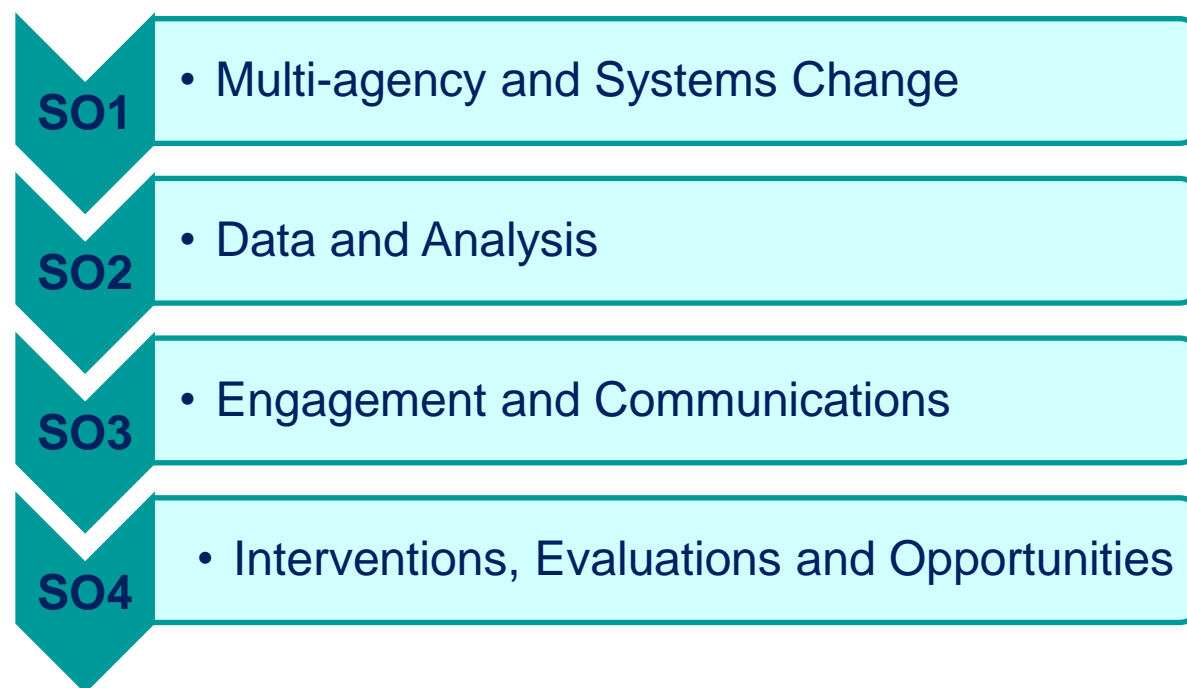
## What is the VRP vision, mission and strategic objectives?

Our **vision** is for Hampshire, the 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 Violence Reduction Partnership which will drive the change required to successfully address the causes and consequences of violence.

There is a shared commitment to reducing serious violence as defined by the VRP. To support the strategic vision of reducing serious violence, the VRP has agreed on four strategic objectives. These priorities will be delivered through the Home Office Serious Violence Duty and Grip funding as well as through existing resources available to the VRP.

### Strategic Objectives



## SO1

### • Multi-agency and Systems Change



*Focusing on developing a whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence, the VRP will make responding to serious violence a priority and business-as-usual for organisations, particularly ensuring a system response to those identified as most affected by serious violence.*

A public-health approach to reducing and preventing serious violence requires extensive and embedded multi-agency working. Partners in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are committed to working together to deliver a localised, joined-up, and effective response to serious violence through the HIPS VRP. Key evidence of success will be ensuring the Response Strategy is co-produced with partners and there is regular and meaningful representation from specified and relevant authorities in the governance arrangements.

*Key outcomes of this approach are:*

- ✓ To create a sustainable partnership environment through a whole-system approach.
- ✓ To encourage organisational and professional cultural change towards serious violence and ensure partners are more trauma informed, as our SNA tells us that the HIPS area has above average number of looked-after children and, with the exception of Portsmouth, most HIPS areas recorded higher mental health related admissions for under 18s.
- ✓ To be evidence based and evidence led when developing the strategic response, aiming towards streamlined identification, management and support of at-risk cohorts and target locations.
- ✓ To involve and create a sense of ownership among young people and communities in the response.



*This will be achieved by ensuring partnership governance and decision-making is:*



- Place-based and joined-up:
  - Local partnerships delivering the Serious Violence Duty will bring together existing mature partnership arrangements such as Community safety Partnerships (CSPs). Gaps in local work will be identified and closed
  - A whole-system response will bring all key partners from specified and relevant authorities together at a strategic level
  - Partners will consider each local authority area equally when working collaboratively and making decisions about activities and service provision; areas with lower demand of serious violence will not lose out to those with higher demand
  - The VRP will aim to utilise any areas of thematic overlap between local authorities, avoiding working in silo. Opportunities will be taken to collaborate over varying geographies when working on similar priority areas
  - The VRP will utilise areas of strategic overlap with Domestic Abuse, Drug and Alcohol Partnerships and other relevant thematic areas. Strategy and delivery plans will complement action points included in other strategies, and opportunities for mutual delivery will be taken.
  
- Clear roles, responsibilities and governance:
  - The roles and responsibilities of each partner will be understood and respected. The contribution of specified authorities will be clear and co-ordinated
  - Those with a leadership role within their organisation will co-ordinate the involvement of specified authorities in the VRP
  - Expectations around delivery will be agreed between all partners, so all are clear on actions, deliverables, and accountability.
  
- Co-production among partners:
  - The VRP will engage with other strategic local partnerships to assess opportunities for collaboration and co-production, to enhance the response to serious violence, share resource and avoid duplication of work.

*Existing work to support system change and multi-agency working:*

An example of activity to facilitate a mature partnership environment is the Tactical Violence Reduction Partnership (TVRP) which leads on a problem-solving partnership response and tracks progress against the identified people involved in serious violence and places impacted by serious violence. The TVRP is supported by a GRIP funded Serious Violence Analyst and VRP Analyst.

A further example is the appointment of place based VRP Managers whose role includes supporting multi-agency working and the Grip funded Violent Crime Taskforce (VCT).



## Actions

- Set clear expectations in terms of the contribution of all specified authorities to the Serious Violence Duty. To ensure consistency between activities in each local authority area, a central concordat will be sent to practitioners in each area, clearly defining the roles, responsibilities and remits under the Serious Violence Duty for each partner authority.
- Co-produce the responses to serious violence, including the Response Strategy, with a range of partners, including the voluntary community sector (VCSE) and local communities, especially children and young people most affected by serious violence.
- Create a plan for sustainability with the aim of identifying opportunities for long-term system change and to create an environment in which the VRP can exist without dependency on central funding.
- Review governance arrangements to ensure the VRP is streamlined, with appropriate representation and positive engagement from all the specified and relevant authorities, as well as other stakeholders as required.
- Move towards using data to automatically identify cohorts at risk, emerging serious violence hotspots, and serious violence risk factors. This will allow a whole-system approach to responding to, and managing, identified areas of need.

### *Partnership involvement under this strategic priority:*

#### Partners are expected to:

- ✓ Understand the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty and actively seek opportunities to collaborate and improve the HIPS wide response.
- ✓ Be open to, and provide, support for all partners and share best practice.
- ✓ Adopt and promote a public health approach to tackling serious violence to partners, stakeholders and the public.
- ✓ Help to identify and manage risk across the area. For example, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) may be able to better identify at risk individuals in health settings and support their referral to existing support. Sharing their data could contribute to a wider data environment that identifies and targets risk more effectively.
- ✓ Partners to be involved in the design and delivery of the local response, including commissioning interventions, ensuring there is a range of voices involved in these discussions, including voluntary and community sector organisations.
- ✓ Have active and meaningful roles in these partnership, including identifying the right individuals to participate in the governance arrangements and lead on serious violence, as well as seeking senior leadership buy-in and support from within their own organisations.

SO2

## • Data and Analysis



*Developing a comprehensive evidence base of the local picture of serious violence is integral to a public health approach, and key to generating an effective response.*

Partners recognise the need to gather evidence, intelligence, and analysis in order to understand the local picture of serious violence, target resources effectively and efficiently, and monitor the impact of the local response. Whilst the SNA includes data sources from all specified and relevant authorities, the VRP has expressed the commitment to closing the remaining data gaps, matching data gathering with robust analysis, and using this insight to improve the service provision in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

*Key outcomes of this approach are:*

- ✓ To ensure partners have a deeper, on-going understanding of the nature of serious violence, cohorts and locations impacted, and to focus the response of serious violence on priority locations and cohorts. Robust analysis and research will turn data into insight and provide a better understanding of the serious violence problem at a local and HIPS-wide level. The VRP is committed to further developing evidence led responses to serious violence. Analysis and research will build a strategic and usable data picture which is supported by granular understanding which answers the 'so what' question.
- ✓ To develop the strategic response based on evidence, including evidence of the impact of current activities and what works to prevent and reduce serious violence. Evidence led decision making will ensure that all needs are catered for:
  - Interventions and actions will be commissioned according to the findings of analysis, providing each target cohort or theme with a tailored response
  - Best practice will be gathered and shared between partners through the VRP, as a means to share knowledge and learning.
- ✓ To create a data environment in which access to data requires less resource and is more streamlined. The VRP will facilitate data sharing between all specified authorities across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. A co-ordinated approach will ensure efficient and effective data and information sharing.



*HIPS VRP have made progress in several areas to improve data sharing and analysis so far. This includes:*

- Recruiting a dedicated VRP Analyst who is co-located within the Police Corporate Insights Department.
- A monthly multi-agency Data & Analysis Working Group (DAWG) has been established to review the progress of developing key partnership data with a VRP Manager responsible for co-ordinating this strategic objective
- Co-production of a HIPS-wide SNA, including local District chapters, to inform the Response Strategy
- Progress made in sharing data with specified and relevant authorities under the Serious Violence Duty specifically in relation to Fire, Local Authorities, Police, Probation and Prisons
- Information Governance arrangements are progressing to establish the sharing of Health, Youth Justice and Education data
- Approval has been gained to adopt Thames Valley Together (TVT) as a data sharing platform in Hampshire, known as Hampshire & Isle of Wight Together (HIOWT). An implementation programme has begun with a staged approach to using the platform to first share police data then overlay partnership data.



### **Actions**

- Continue utilising the Data and Analysis Working Group (DAWG) to facilitate an understanding of partnership serious violence data and its drivers using a Partnership Data Tracker.
- Work with information governance leads through the DAWG to work through barriers to data sharing and where necessary formalise arrangements.
- Collaborate and co-produce an annual HIPS-wide SNA to meet the needs of specified authorities and CSPs.
- Use partnership data to embed an automated, data-led system response to identify the individuals, communities and locations at increased risk of serious violence.
- Develop a common data sharing platform (HIOWT) and review opportunities for data science, including AI and machine learning, to inform the VRP. Consider how existing data dashboards such as Insights can contribute to this work.

- Connect with the Population Health Management programme and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB to further understand how health data can inform the VRP.
- Regularly review the Theory of Change and Outcome-Based Performance Framework (OBPF) in partnership to complement partners' existing monitoring and evaluation work.
- Provide training to partners on the data sharing principles and legal requirements under the Serious Violence Duty to work through any barriers, or reticence, around information sharing.

*Partnership involvement under this strategic priority:*

Partners are expected to:

- ✓ Respond to data requests for the purposes of meeting this priority. The Serious Violence Duty allows data sharing between specified and relevant authorities and allows the Police and Crime Commissioner to request information from specified and relevant authorities. The scope of the data sharing is broad, including to improve the evidence base, support the multi-agency response to serious violence and support partnership working. Ultimately the aim in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton is to use innovative methods to share data to identify, manage and support people and places most affected by serious violence.
- ✓ Share data to help the partnership understand and monitor the impact of its Response Strategy on preventing and reducing serious violence. For example, the police may have to report on trends using the VRP definition of serious violence and the Youth Justice Services may have to report on outcomes for children and young people subject to interventions commissioned by the VRP.
- ✓ Develop a sustainable plan to capture their commitment to the production of an annual SNA specifically in relation to the provision of data and analytical resource.

## SO3

### • Engagement and Communications



*The partnership will seek to work with, and involve the community, based on an understanding of the value of the community in supporting the local response to serious violence.*

The local response to serious violence will be developed with and for the community, to ensure communities in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton feel safer. Community consensus is a key part of a public health approach and the HIPS VRP is working towards a partnership that values the voice of local communities and local communities feel that they are involved in the direction of the VRP.

*Key outcomes of this approach are:*

- ✓ To improve trust in the VRP, namely the specified and relevant authorities delivering the Serious Violence Duty.
- ✓ To build upon the voice of young people and the community, as captured within the SNA, to inform the VRP's response to serious violence and develop a counter-narrative which resonates with our communities.
- ✓ To nurture a willingness with young people to engage in support and help them away from involvement in serious violence.
- ✓ To have a positive impact on perceptions of community safety.



*HIPS VRP have made progress in several areas to build on work done to engage communities, including making the most of existing assets and routes into the community, such as:*

- Making use of existing forums, such as the OPCC Youth Commission.
- Mapping existing engagement provision across the HIPS area to better understand the landscape of who engages with communities, how, when, who with, and the responses to that engagement.
- Encouraging partners to hear and respond to young people, such as:

- Using the #BeeWell wellbeing survey for Years 8 and 10 in the HIPS area to understand children’s feelings of happiness and safety
  - Localised youth engagement events linking children and young people with organisations offering activities
  - School safeguarding fayres, College and University events
  - Support Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings with new beat officers in areas of serious violence.
- Development of a HIPS-wide knife crime survey, utilising a consistent set of questions developed through the VRP working collaboratively with Greater Manchester VRP and Portsmouth University, with the results informing the SNA.
  - Collaboration with Your Police UK youth engagement for key campaigns, with analysis of reach and response. Plans for a new HIPS-wide campaign in relation to robberies and bystander approach.



Actions
➤ Map and carry out gap analysis of existing partnership engagement with communities and young people.
➤ Work in partnership to ensure that the community voice is consistently captured and informs activity.
➤ Ensure the community voice captures the cohorts most impacted by violence.
➤ Develop methods of engagement to survey HIPS communities on their perceptions of serious violence and analyse the results to support the ongoing development of the evidence base.
➤ Understand gaps and barriers in engagement to ensure more meaningful, inclusive and frequent engagement opportunities with communities and young people.
➤ Continue to, and identify new opportunities for localised engagement with young people, communities, and those affected by serious violence as well as engaging individuals through key authorities such as the Youth Justice Service.
➤ Consider commissioning key voluntary and community sector organisations to work with local communities.
➤ Embed the views and voices of communities and young people into the strategy and governance arrangements, as well as considering when to use communities to support the design of interventions.



- Engage specified and relevant authorities to scope the development of community hubs and spaces, and opportunities to partner with local community assets.
- Continue to use the results of engagement to inform the SNA and the commissioning of interventions.
- Use the Engagement and Communications Working Groups to inform the development of a Communications Strategy.
- Create a VRP brand and website to communicate with partners and the public.
- Celebrate and highlight the work of communities and the VRP working together, including meeting the Serious Violence Duty.
- Develop a strength-based counter-narrative, including opportunities for co-production with communities.

*Partnership involvement under this priority:*

Partners are expected to:

- ✓ Help provide access through identified assets to support collaborative working around serious violence. Some organisations may even be able to identify individuals who can contribute to discussions held within the HIPS governance arrangements, such as adding lived experience membership to the SVRP terms of reference or establishing a lived experience forum that is consulted by the partnership on a regular basis
- ✓ Support messaging around the VRP Response Strategy and associated delivery, to maximise the reach within the specified and relevant authorities
- ✓ Be aware of previous and ongoing work, any barriers to engagement locally, and be able to support the VRP to identify and remove these barriers in any planned engagement. For example, the voluntary and community sector may be able to ensure planned engagement reaches certain communities.



SO4

## • Interventions, Evaluation and Opportunities



*Through an intelligent and sustainable commissioning approach, the VRP will be able to coordinate and target resources at the people, places and times most affected by serious violence across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.*

The aim is for the VRP to ensure that interventions respond effectively to local need. It will identify opportunities for synergy and collaborative working, aiming to maximise the impact of interventions to reduce serious violence, as part of a public health approach.

The VRP will focus on commissioning evidence-based interventions to ensure that those at risk of being affected by serious violence are supported and partners are better able to respond to this cohort which will be achieved through trauma-informed training. This will complement the work of the Trauma Informed Executive Board; it is important the VRP does not duplicate this work but builds on it. Given the strategic objective, commissioned interventions focused on those at risk of being affected by serious violence need to be targeted at areas of need and priority cohorts identified in the SNA.

*Key outcomes of this approach are:*

- ✓ A reduction in children entering the Criminal Justice System with the SNA indicating an increase in children aged 10-17 years committing serious violence.
- ✓ A reduction in police recorded knife-enabled serious violence and hospital admissions for sharps related injuries with the SNA indicating a slight increase in both of these measures.
- ✓ A reduction in young people aged 18-25 subject to custody or community probation for serious violence offences as currently evidenced within the SNA.
- ✓ Ensure there are commissioned interventions which meet the needs of priority cohorts involved and impacted by serious violence.



*Existing interventions have already been funded by the VRU and Serious Violence Duty Grants to support the delivery of this strategic priority:*

- CHOICES: Social skills and awareness sessions for year 6 and 7 school children - around peer relationships, knife crime, gang violence, county lines and exploitation, delivered by Artworks & Bearface.
- A&E Navigators, delivered by No Limits.
- RESET: A voluntary custody navigator intervention for 18-25 year olds, delivered by Society of St James.
- Trauma informed practitioners (TIPS), delivered by Rock Pool.
- Evaluation of the VRU interventions delivered by Liverpool John Moores University.

Other initiatives that have been put in place to support the delivery of this priority by specified authorities and others such as:

- Hotspot policing, identifying risky cohorts and communicating with CSPs.
- Youth Justice Service Turnaround Project.



#### Actions

- Conduct a gap analysis of existing provision within communities to identify gaps in commissioned interventions which reduce violence based on the needs of different cohorts and communities, aligned with the most common risk factors identified in the Strategic Needs Assessment, and evidenced by 'What Works' (College of Policing and Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit).
- Adopt a public health and trauma informed approach to commissioning interventions, which is with and for communities, reflecting the voices and experiences of the communities to complement the work of the Trauma Informed Executive Board and adhering to the Trauma Informed Concordat.
- Map and understand sources of funding locally and nationally to plan for opportunities which may be created and look for opportunities for partners to collaborate on funding bids to maximise the impact of interventions.
- Look for opportunities to undertake joint commissioning with other partnerships to ensure priorities, resources and capacity is aligned resulting in efficient and effective delivery.
- Develop an Evaluation and Commissioning strategy to support a co-ordinated and consistent approach across the VRP.
- Share the results of the evaluation of commissioned interventions to understand their future, including their ability to be funded sustainably by the VRP.

- Undertake a gap analysis of training currently available for partners in relation to developing sustainable public-health evidence-based commissioning.

*Partnership involvement under this strategic priority:*

Partners are expected to:

- ✓ Partners take responsibility for the successful implementation of any commissioned interventions across the Partnership.
- ✓ Partners commit to allocate required resource for effective evaluation of commissioned interventions.
- ✓ Commitment to a system-wide approach underpinned by mature and committed partnership arrangements
- ✓ Challenge each other to focus on solutions where there is an evidence base to show good practice.
- ✓ Support delivery where appropriate. For example, the police or local authority will be able to target hotspots identified by the partnership or contribute to understanding the impact of commissioned interventions by collecting and sharing data with the partnership and independent evaluators.

# How will the VRP monitor impact?

The HIPS VRP have produced a Theory of Change which outlines medium term outcomes that support the strategic objectives, and the impacts these will lead to. It details the partnership activities required to achieve these.

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes (Medium-term)	Impacts (Long-term)
<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£1,562,113 Home Office funding 2024</li> <li>£1,641,795 National Crime Office funding 2025</li> <li>£265,902.94 funding 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>VRP model</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Office Violence Reduction Partnership, enter specified or relevant activities</li> <li>Home Office Violence Reduction Partnership</li> <li>Home Office Violence Reduction Partnership</li> <li>Home Office Violence Reduction Partnership</li> <li>Home Office Violence Reduction Partnership</li> <li>Home Office Violence Reduction Partnership</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing multi-agency partnerships</li> <li>Local and relevant authorities</li> <li>Third sector and community organisations</li> <li>Services, Volunteer-led</li> </ul> <p><b>Key relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing relationships</li> <li>Relationships with local authorities and other partners</li> <li>Existing data sharing agreements and arrangements</li> <li>Therapy sharing partnership to establish Hampshire and Isle of Wight Together (HIT)</li> </ul> <p><b>Stakeholders and community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing services including CRCE Health Commission</li> <li>Partners working with young people</li> </ul> <p><b>Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VRP and local authority Commissioned in services</li> <li>External evidence of all factors in services including VRP Toolkit</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance from the Home Office</li> <li>VRP shared resources</li> <li>VRP joint working</li> <li>CRCE delivers response strategy support</li> <li>VRP Blueprint</li> </ul> <p><b>Information systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VRP agency systems leadership</li> <li>Use of evidence and evaluation</li> <li>The effective sharing of data between partners</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Multi-agency and System Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with the local system to deliver Serious Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP) to drive and support multi-agency local delivery which is collaborative, trauma informed and builds on existing strengths &amp; resources</li> <li>Coordinate and actively support delivery of a response strategy to reduce harm and meet the SV Data in response to the Strategic Health Assessment</li> <li>Local Violence Reduction Partnership (LVRP) will promote the development of multi-agency systems to produce evidence position-subjecting response to risk individuals, communities and geographical hotspots</li> <li>Seek to embed sub-national data-led system responses</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Data &amp; Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and relevant authorities attend and collaborate at Data and Analysis Working Group (DAWG)</li> <li>Coordinate and coordinate Strategic Health Assessment (SHA) which assesses the needs of local authorities and CSPs</li> <li>Develop a partnership data leader to increase understanding of partnership data reports to SV and to share</li> <li>Work with Information Governance to break down barriers to data sharing and where necessary formalise arrangements</li> <li>Develop Outcomes Based Performance Framework in partnership to monitor progress</li> <li>Develop in progress and Isle of Wight Together (IOWT) common data platform and share with information</li> <li>Use partnership data to identify individuals, communities and geographic hotspots to increase risk level</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and relevant authorities attend and collaborate at Engagement and Commms working group</li> <li>Map and carry out gap analysis of existing partnership engagement with communities and strategic assets</li> <li>Work in partnership to ensure that the community voice is consistently represented and shared across</li> <li>Ensure community voice captures culture most impacted by violence</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create VRP brand and website for communication with partners and public</li> <li>Coordinate and highlight work of communities and our VRP working together</li> <li>Develop 6 months based campaign narrative</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Interventions, Evaluation &amp; Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct gap analysis of existing provision within communities</li> <li>Deliver academic evidence based interventions/communities</li> <li>Develop interventions with and for communities</li> <li>Carry out joint commissioning for services and deliver through</li> <li>Collaborate with local partners to provide best provision by a consortium of providers</li> <li>Challenge existing health approach which includes interventions to understand 'what works'</li> <li>Incorporate learning from partnership data and evaluations into the VRP strategy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Multi-agency &amp; System Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and relevant authorities attend at DAWG meetings</li> <li>Response strategy to drive VRP activity</li> <li>Partners attend at DAWG meetings</li> <li>Multi-agency activities in response to attack individuals, communities and geographical hotspots</li> <li>Specified and relevant activities accessing and sharing data via Hampshire and Isle of Wight Together</li> </ul> <p><b>Data &amp; Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and relevant authorities attend at DAWG meetings</li> <li>Strategic Health Assessment to understand the local picture of evidence and to form evidence on the response strategy</li> <li>Partnership data leader to increase data sharing, barriers and actions</li> <li>Outcomes Based Performance Framework to monitor progress against the VRP strategic objectives</li> <li>Implement and use of IOWT Together shared data platform</li> <li>Use of multi-agency, communities and locations</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and relevant authorities attend at Engagement and Commms working group</li> <li>Map and carry out gap analysis of existing partnership engagement</li> <li>Work in partnership to ensure that the community voice is consistently represented and shared across</li> <li>Ensure community voice captures culture most impacted by violence</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website and products using VRP branding</li> <li>Regular communications between VRP and partners via website</li> </ul> <p><b>Interventions, Evaluation &amp; Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support existing provision within communities</li> <li>Deliver academic evidence based interventions and delivered with and for communities</li> <li>Deliver commissioned interventions</li> <li>Jointly produced partnership</li> <li>Working services, facilities and professionals reached through interventions</li> <li>About evaluation reports and lower level monitoring reports of interventions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Multi-agency &amp; System Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and relevant authorities deliver the public health response to SV is shared across the partnership and specified and relevant authorities understand their role</li> <li>Violence reduction efforts are sustained in the longer term</li> <li>Multi-agency working is strengthened and evaluation is robust</li> <li>Increased provision factors and decreased offending in risk individuals</li> <li>Reduced risk to public</li> <li>Increased protective factors and decreased offending in risk individuals</li> <li>Culture of sustained and rapid data access to inform decisions</li> </ul> <p><b>Data &amp; Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and relevant authorities maintain comprehensive and ongoing understanding of the nature and drivers of SV, and the capacity and location impacted</li> <li>Access to data, evidence and real time evidence to support VRP performance against outcomes is improved</li> <li>Partnership response strategy to focused on priority issues, locations and cultures</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement &amp; Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners have a shared responsibility and clear roles in Engagement and Commms using a common system narrative</li> <li>Partners working relationships and collaboration is strengthened</li> <li>Partners maintain a shared and ongoing understanding of the response and needs of the VRP and communities which is reflected in the partnership response to violence</li> <li>Partners and public are better informed about SV and the partnership response</li> </ul> <p><b>Interventions, Evaluation &amp; Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased risk factors and increased protective factors for young people and communities through evidence based interventions</li> <li>Commissioning and bidding processes are strengthened through collaboration</li> <li>Evaluation evidence informs the intervention as a basis for response reduction</li> <li>Developments in the response to violence, including future interventions commissioned, are informed by evidence of the impact of current activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership response to violence is embedded and sustained through the national, public health approach</li> <li>Effective multi-agency working processes embedded</li> <li>Reduction in length of admission for assaults with a knife or sharp objects</li> <li>Reduction in police recorded knife-related serious violence</li> <li>Reduction in all non-domestic homicide (Home Office figures)</li> <li>Reduction in family defined serious violence</li> <li>Reduction in risk factors</li> <li>Increased in protective factors</li> <li>Increase in public trust in the VRP and partners</li> <li>Increase in VRP willingness to engage in support</li> <li>Increase in feelings of safety</li> </ul>

In order to monitor progress towards, and achievement of, the impacts, the VRP have created an Outcomes Based Performance Framework (OBPF). This monitors changes in outputs, outcomes and impacts across all strategic objectives, enabling the VRP to see the impact of their activity. Over time, trends will inform the partnership's decisions and priorities. The OBPF and the Theory of Change are evolving documents which will be regularly reviewed. Where data highlights activity needs to change direction, unanticipated outcomes are identified or new monitoring data becomes available, the documents will be updated.

Monitoring will also take place at the intervention level. This may refer to commissioned violence reduction interventions or wider practice, such as engagement activities. This will include monitoring delivery to understand how the activity is delivered, for example whether it is reaching the target cohort. Additionally, determining impact by monitoring outcomes bespoke to the intervention, such as whether public trust has increased.

The VRP will also facilitate robust evaluation, directly or through collaboration with external evaluators. This enables a deeper insight into questions of both delivery and impact: is delivery as expected, what is the experience of participants and stakeholders, can delivery be strengthened, are aimed outcomes being met or are unanticipated outcomes evident? Trends highlighted through monitoring data, paired with valid and reliable evaluation results, will guide decisions that direct activity, commissioning and investment through informing value for money. This evidence-based approach to monitoring and evaluation which will be adopted at the HIPS and CSP level is an integral part of a public health approach.

## How will the VRP review the strategy?

This Strategy sets out partnership direction and activity for 2024 to 2027. The VRP Strategic Needs Assessment will be reviewed annually in December and the Response Strategy will be reviewed and published annually in January. This will be overseen by the Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership.

The VRP Response Strategy does not sit in isolation, there are many strategies and plans that seek to promote a coordinated response across agencies serving the counties of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Strategic alignment to avoid duplication or confusion is desirable, more streamlined and simple strategic coordination will deliver more efficient and effective coordination of services to the community. The VRP recognise that there are many outcomes from tackling risk factors and promoting protective factors in our communities that will be shared by other strategies such as CSP Strategies, Trauma Informed Strategy, HIPS Exploitation Strategy, Youth Justice Strategies, Public Health Strategies and Safeguarding Children Boards. Work will be undertaken by the VRP to consider options to merge strategies and simplify the 'strategic system'.

Understanding and evaluating the impact of the delivery plan will be a key part of a partnership public health approach to tackling the root causes of serious violence. The development of the outcomes-based performance framework allows the VRP to track progress towards its strategic objectives by monitoring outcomes and impacts, including the aims of the subgroups to the SVRP. These have clear terms of reference and are responsible for bringing partners together to deliver VRP actions. The framework will be reviewed and updated to reflect changes to partnership aims and to track new performance data that becomes available. The VRP Strategy will be reviewed in light of trends in outcome and impacts, as well developments in the VRP response to the broader strategic landscape. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is funded until March 2025. The VRU will coordinate, evaluate and report on strategy delivery whilst it is funded and will seek to identify sustainable ways of continuing this work.