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Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

Engagement Working Group

Terms of Reference (ToR)

February 2024

# distribution list and ENGAGEMENT membership

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agency | Specified or Relevant Authority[[1]](#footnote-1) | Name & Role / Partner |
| Violence  Reduction  Unit (VRU) | N/A | VRU Director and Chair  VRU Manager and Vice Chair  VRU Programmes and Projects Officer |
| Police | Specified Authority | Engagement Lead  Tactical Lead for Serious Violence, Violence Crime Taskforce |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service (HIWFRS) | Specified Authority | Representation from Marketing and Engagement Manager  Representation from Community Development & Safeguarding Manager |
| Youth Justice Service (YJS) | Specified Authority | Team Leader from Portsmouth YJS  Hampshire and Isle of Wight Participation and Communications Officer |
| Health – Integrated Care Boards | Specified Authority | Solent NHS Participation Lead  Representation from ICB |
| Local Authorities | Specified Authority | Representations from Portsmouth City Council  Representation from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council  Representation from Rushmoor Borough Council  Representation from Test Valley Borough Council |
| Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) | N/A | Attendance not yet required |
| Probation | Specified Authority | Senior Probation Officer, Southampton |
| Education | Relevant Authority | Southampton City Council Education and HAF Lead |
| Prison Service | Relevant Authority | Attendance not yet required |
| Voluntary Sector | N/A | Interim Chief Executive Officer |

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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.

Within Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS), the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) are responsible for leading on this approach and working collaboratively with all Partners within the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) to reduce serious violence, 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.

One of the sub groups within the SVRP to achieve this is the Engagement Working Group.

# 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 Engagement Working Group brings together the VRP to collaborate and work with and for communities, embedding voices and lived experiences, as part of a Public Health Approach.

The Engagement Working Group oversees the operational delivery of the VRP Strategy for Engagement, which is captured within the [VRP Theory of Change](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home/useful-documents) (ToC)[[5]](#footnote-5).

The following activities will be delivered by the Engagement Working Group, in alignment with the ToC[[6]](#footnote-6):

* Specified and Relevant authorities attend and collaborate at the Engagement Working Group​ (3.a)
* Map and carry out gap analysis of existing Partnership engagement with communities and young people. Furthermore, understanding gaps and barriers in engagement to ensure more meaningful, inclusive and frequent engagement opportunities with communities and young people​ (3.b)
* Work in partnership to ensure that the community voice is consistently captured and informs activity. Furthermore, 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 (3.c)
* Ensure community voice captures cohorts most impacted by violence (3.d)
* 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 (3.e).
* Engage specified and relevant authorities to scope the development of community hubs and spaces, and opportunities to partner with local community assets (3.f).
* 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.
* Continuing to use the results of the engagement to inform the SNA and commissioning of interventions.

# 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[[7]](#footnote-7).

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 Engagement Working Group[[8]](#footnote-8):

* The Partnership should develop an engagement plan covering how children, young people and families will be consulted to inform the SNA and serious violence strategy, as well as the delivery of interventions (5.1).
* This plan should set out how the Partnership intend to reach diverse cohorts, and to research saturation / oversampling (5.2).
* Partners should invest in more comprehensive community mapping, to identify the individuals and organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight that could be actively involved in violence reduction efforts (8.1).
* Best practice should be shared among partners to facilitate collaboration when engaging with communities and to encourage the adoption of effective violence reduction techniques (8.3).

Once a recommendation has been achieved, the Crest Advisory Readiness Tracker will be updated and the Engagement Working Group 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 Engagement Working Group should be measured by the following elements[[9]](#footnote-9) of the Performance Framework, which will be monitored and reported on quarterly:

* Positive relationships and trust are built between Specified and Relevant authorities and the public. The success measure to achieve this will be:
  + The public feel positivity about engagement with Specified and Relevant authorities, measured by data source:
* VRU: percentage of positive ratings on event feedback forms (4.2.1.a)
* Specified and Relevant authorities maintain an understanding of the views and needs of diverse communities and the response to violence reflects their voice and is co-produced by them. The success measure to achieve this will be:
  + Increased numbers of young people contributing their views, measured by data sources:
* VRU: number of responses to knife crime survey (4.3.1.a)
* OPCC: number of responses to the Big Conversation questionnaire[[10]](#footnote-10) (4.3.1.b)

# partner 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:

* 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.
* Be open to and provide support to other Partners, sharing best practice.
* Adopt and promote a Public Health Approach to tackling serious violence to Partners, Stakeholders and the Public.

# reporting relationships

The Chair / Vice Chair of the Engagement Working Group will raise any key updates and decisions to the SVRP on a quarterly basis.

# meeting frequency and format

Meetings will be held monthly and reviewed in June 2024.

To foster positive relationships, these will be held via Teams with every third meeting being held in person and hosted by a different Specified Authority.

There may be separate Task and Finish groups for separate work streams if required.

# administration

No minutes will be taken, however actions and attendance for all meetings will be recorded and monitored by the VRU.

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 focuses on ‘what has happened to this person’, rather than ‘what is wrong with this person’. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 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-5)
6. Number per activity aligns to that shown in the VRP Theory of Change. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 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-7)
8. Number per recommendation aligns to that provided by Crest Advisory. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Number per element aligns to that shown in the Outcomes Based Performance Framework. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The Police and Crime Commissioner’s Youth Commission undertake an annual survey asking young people (14 - 25 years) for their views on topical crime and policing issues. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)