Annual Report: 2024/25

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Violence Reduction Partnership

Executive Summary

This report summarises the activity of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) in the financial year 2024/25 and demonstrates compliance with the Serious Violence Duty over that period for the Specified Authorities under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (2022).

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) take on the role of coordinating the VRP’s strategic response to serious violence, so this report is also a summary of VRU activity for 2024/25.

The reporting period has included a change of government which created some financial uncertainty for the VRP. There have been challenges in recruitment and retention of staff on fixed term contracts. Specified Authorities have been through organisational reviews and change programmes leading to necessary internal focus. These conditions can be less favourable in terms of finding the space for partnership work. Many Specified and Relevant Authorities find themselves operating in a challenging operational environment to manage volume of demand and high-risk cases.

During 2024/25, the VRP has continued to collaborate on delivering the Response Strategy with encouraging results. The HIOW police service recorded 7.1% less serious violence offences and 5.3% less knife crime when compared with 2023/24. The VRP is not complacent and will maintain focus on further reduction in serious violence rates as well as recognising that there are still reoffending rates involving children that need urgent attention.

It is not possible to attribute the reduction in serious violence and knife crime to any one of the many interventions, innovations, and system changes delivered within the VRP. The improvements in sharing personal data in partnership forums, to drive problem solving concerning people and places, are at the core of the VRP success. The VRP delivers a public health prevention response to serious violence with primary and secondary approaches, but co-production across the VRP of the tertiary response is likely to impact the most rapid changes.

The combination of funding streams (VRU, Grip, Safer Streets and ASB Hotspot funding) has been used to support and improve effective local partnerships. The VRU developed 14 local Strategic Needs Assessments (SNAs) to inform local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) level responses. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Donna Jones approved £750,000 of funding to local authorities to foster a patrol and problem-solving approach for 20 geographic ‘Hot Spots’ in HIOW. Police data are routinely used to identify repeat ‘serious violence’ suspects and ‘habitual knife carriers’ into partnership forums where partnership problem-solving activity can be prioritised and managed.

There are three unitary authorities, one upper tier authority, and 11 lower tier authorities in the Police Force Area that the VRP covers. As a result, the whole system response to Serious Violence is complex. The VRP strives to align strategies that reduce duplication of effort.

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Introduction

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 Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) takes a multi-agency, public health approach to understanding the causes and impact of serious violence, developing a strategic response which focusses on prevention and early intervention, and monitoring the impact of this response.

To support the shared commitment to reducing serious violence, the VRP has agreed on four strategic objectives:

* Multi-agency and Systems Change
* Data and Analysis
* Communication and Engagement
* Interventions and Evaluations

These objectives are detailed further in the VRP Response Strategy. This annual report summarises progress against each objective.

There is no set definition of serious violence and so a common definition was agreed within the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) VRP to enable consistency across the partnership. Therefore, serious violence in HIPS comprises:

* Murder
* Attempt Murder
* Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)
* Robbery
* Possession of a Weapon
* Violent Disorder
* Riots (Public Disorder)
* Any Violence with injury where a bladed item was used

Domestic Abuse (DA) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) were not included in the definition in the year 2024/25 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.

Our vision is for HIPS 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 collaborative, courageous and sustainable partnership which will drive the change required to successfully address the causes and consequences of violence.

Multi-Agency and Systems Change

The partnership system response to preventing Serious Violence is complex but there are some key forums that bring committed partners together to drive change.

**Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP)**

This Board of senior partners is chaired by the PCC Donna Jones who oversees the delivery of the [VRP Response Strategy](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HIPS-Response-Strategy-2023-FINAL.pdf). The Strategy articulates a public health approach to tackling serious violence across HIPS. The partnership is made up of Specified and Relevant Authorities, required within the Serious Violence Duty under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (2022). Partnership actions are tracked and recorded in a delivery plan.

**Tactical Violence Reduction Partnership (TVRP)**

The [TVRP](https://forcesserip-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jackson_sweeting_hampshire_police_uk/Documents/Documents/Comms/VRP_Tactical-Violence-Reduction-Partnership-Working-Group_Terms-of-Reference_May%202024_V5.docx) is a subgroup of the SVRP that brings partners together to collaborate and develop consistent good practice in a ‘whole system, multi-agency’ response to serious violence. The TVRP focusses in particular on the whole system tertiary response to people involved in violence and geographical ‘hot spots. To support this, the TVRP are data driven and explore partnership response plans in exceptional areas. Examples of datasets shared in this partnership include, repeat serious violence offenders and habitual knife carriers. This allows for collaborative problem solving and progress can be tracked against key individuals. Overall, by identifying good practice locally and nationally, and reviewing the data shared between partners, the TVRP can apply this knowledge to local communities and where the need is greatest.

**Trauma Informed Executive (TIE) Board**

The TIE Board brings senior leaders from the VRP together to oversee continual improvement in workforce and system response. Chief and Executive Officers are signatories of the [Trauma Informed Concordat.](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Concordat-with-signatures-Updated-June-2024.pdf) The TIE Board is overseen by the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) which is a key public health strategic partnership forum for Hampshire and the IOW.

**HIPS Strategic Exploitation Group**

[The HIPS Strategic Exploitation Group](https://hipsprocedures.org.uk/assets/clients/7/HIPS%20Child%20Exploitation%20Strategy%202023-26%20%28005%29.pdf) is a collaboration of the four local Safeguarding Children Boards. It brings together leaders and oversees sub-groups to drive delivery to improve system response and workforce development. The VRP ‘toolkits’ (see communications section) are developed in partnership with this forum.

**Youth Justice Partnerships/Boards**

The four Youth Justice Partnerships that oversee the management of Youth Justice Services, and bring together partners to prevent young people from becoming involved in the Criminal Justice System, are integral to understanding why children become involved in serious

Violence (often as a result of exploitation and missed opportunities from the system response), and working towards diverting them away from that pathway. The VRU Director is a member of the four Youth Justice Boards.

**Tactical Community Safety Partnership Meetings**

Many Specified Authorities have developed new working practices during 2024/25 to improve how they respond as a single agency, but also how they operate in partnership. There are varied names for these forums. They are common in their design to share information to understand need, and to match that need to statutory and Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector support.

Partnership change to a ‘whole system’ response can be characterised as radical change through very small steps. It is not possible to collate all the positive changes in single agency and partnership responses. Examples of such change include the following;

**Violent Crime Taskforce (VCT)**

The VCT are a small team of dedicated police officers who work in serious violence hotspots and with serious violence perpetrators. Their work provides both an operational and partnership problem solving response to issues, encompassing both enforcement and prevention in order to reduce serious violence. They also lead on the Op Sceptre (knife crime) and Op Calibre (personal robbery) weeks of action. They have been working closely with the VRP, and the VCT Inspector attends the VRUs bi-weekly team meetings. In addition to this, the VCT have consistently linked in with the VRU for support on Op Sceptre as well as other initiatives and programmes. The VCT have led improved responses around social media content and use of civil orders to disrupt and divert young people from serious violence. VCT learning will be embedded into Focussed Deterrence programmes. The VCT is able to advise and influence partnerships across the force area to develop more effective responses to serious violence.

**Department of Work and Pensions and Probation Service collaboration**

The VRU has continued to support a collaboration between the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Probation Service. The collaboration improves support for prison leavers attempting to remove barriers to financial and employment support that are often present. This project involves the co-location of a DWP worker in Probation offices on certain days of the week. Since 2023/24, the project has been expanded from Southampton to include Basingstoke and Portsmouth as well, with partners in Dorset also interested in being involved in the expansion. An evaluation of the project is in its final draft, with initial results showcasing the positive experience felt by the users. The evaluation of this simple system is being developed in collaboration with a local University.

Data and Analysis

**Strategic Needs Analysis (SNA)**

The VRU has again collaborated with Local Authorities and Public Health Analysts to co-produce the VRP Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), meeting the Serious Violence Duty at the police force level. This includes a HIPS-wide SNA and individual chapters for each district across HIPS. The SNA used the VRP agreed serious violence definition and incorporated data shared across the partnership, as well as publicly available data. Developments on the previous year’s SNA include a section on Communication and Engagement across HIPS.

**Partnership Data Tracker**

[The Partnership Data Tracker](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2024%2F02%2FPartnership-Data-Tracker.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) monitors all ongoing and developing data sharing arrangements across the VRP, as well as data that is routinely shared from the providers working in our communities to tackle violence. There has been sustained progress in sharing data between Specified Authorities, with data sharing increasing from 59% to 77% of identified relevant data sources in the last financial year. One of the focuses going into next year will be to continue to develop data sharing with Health Departments (i.e Integrated Care Boards).

**Data and Analysis Partnership (DAP)**

The DAP is a continuation of what was previously known as the Data and Analysis Working Group (DAWG), comprising representatives from Specified Authorities. The name was changed to reflect the future of data sharing arrangements, collaboration and good practice linked to broader community safety analysis. The DAP meets monthly, coordinating efficient and effective data sharing to provide the evidence base for the local picture of serious violence. The partnership continues to oversee the operational delivery of the VRP strategic objectives for Data and Analysis, supporting partners to meet the Serious Violence Duty, which includes the duty to share information, intelligence and knowledge in order to prevent serious violence. In addition to this, more individual presentations and sharing of wider knowledge from partners, including topics such as VAWG, have been included to further widen the scope of knowledge shared within the partnership and develop the current Terms of Reference. Importantly the DAP creates a network of professionals who see the challenges and opportunities outside of their own organisation.

**Common Data Platform**

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Together (HIOWT), ‘the Together platform’ is a common data platform that will enable the automated sharing of data to identify those people and communities most at risk of serious violence and where the biggest impacts can be made. The Together platform, which is facilitated via Microsoft Azure and PowerBI, is being built in collaboration with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary and Thames Valley Police on behalf of both areas' VRPs. The project is currently piloting its first partnership with

Hampshire County Council and will look to on-board other partners over the coming year. The first products being worked on for delivery imminently are a report to highlight children at risk due to parental imprisonment (Op Paramount) and another that will identify young people that would benefit most from a focussed deterrence approach.

A beta version of the platform, TogetherCore, is now live and in use. This enables analysts within the partnership to self-service access to aggregated police data. The ability to give partners access to aggregated police data has the potential to transform how local partnerships respond to changes in local crime trends.

Communication

**Newsletter**

The VRP newsletter has been published since June 2024. This is released monthly, and updates partners and subscribers regarding the ongoing activities of the VRU as well as other relevant items of interest. All newsletters are stored on the VRU website, so they can be accessed at any time. There are currently 203 subscribers to the VRU newsletter, most of whom work for relevant organisations and charities.

**Social Media**

The VRP continues to use social media to promote messaging around the importance of tackling serious violence in partnership and the work it is doing to achieve this. The VRP uses social media platforms including LinkedIn and Instagram, where we currently have 172 and 144 followers respectively. Items shared on social media channels include, VRP campaigns, events, training opportunities, VRU updates and raising awareness of activities led by other partners and lead agencies. By using social media, the VRU hopes to widen its audience and raise awareness of the partnership work to reduce serious violence.

**Website**

The [VRU website](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/vru-home) continues to be used and updated regularly. The website contains information about the partnership’s strategic objectives, campaigns, VRU-funded interventions, details about geographic areas, and useful documents for use by partners.

**Serious Violence Toolkit**

The [serious violence toolkit](https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/professionals/toolkits/serious-violence/) has remained in use this year and offers another vital resource and a way to communicate our message to wider partners. The toolkit is hosted by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, and was designed by the VRU through wide consultation with partners. It continues to provide a wealth of information and supports partners to play their part in reducing serious violence, from CPI form support, to case studies and national evidence of best practice. This year we have also added a ‘[knife crime’](https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/professionals/toolkits/serious-violence/knife-crime/) button to the toolkit. The ‘knife crime’ button contains information on knife crime specifically and offers links and resources for people to better understand the topic and to use within their own organisations.

Engagement

**Participation Pack**

[The Serious Violence and Knife Crime Participation Pack](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VRP-Serious-Violence-and-Knife-Crime-Participation-Pack-2025.pdf) has been developed to strengthen our conversations with young people. The pack is a toolkit with information on serious violence and knife crime and includes five 15-minute educational activities on serious violence and knife crime. As such, the pack was designed for those working with young people, such as youth workers, teachers, social workers etc. The overall aim, is that by engaging young people in meaningful conversation, through the use of the pack, they will become more empowered in terms of dealing with the challenges of serious violence and knife crime in their life. This pack has been distributed at meetings, engagement events, and online, as well as being made available on the VRU website.

**Youth PACT Best Practice Guide**

[The Youth PACT Best Practice Guide](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/VRP-Youth-PACT-Best-Practice-Guide.pdf) is a resource for organisations looking to establish their own Youth PACTs, ensuring that young people have a meaningful voice in shaping decisions that affect them. Including youth voice is vital to creating strategies and interventions that truly reflect their needs. The guide is based on a successful pilot with a local Academy, in collaboration with other partners. This pack has been distributed at meetings, engagement events, and online, as well as being available on the VRU website.

**Op Sceptre**

Op Sceptre is a knife crime awareness week that occurs twice a year during May and November. During this week, there is an intensified crackdown on targeting knife crime by the Police, as well as other community events and more productive discussion to help raise awareness. The VRU was involved in a collaborative working group to plan this with the police alongside other organisations and businesses. As a result of this, many events and engagement activities were organised and delivered. Additionally, the VRU also developed documents and resources, to help other organisations raise awareness of Op Sceptre on their communication channels as well as resources they could use with young people and people of interest to their organisation. Op Sceptre is a fantastic example of effective partnership working that is represented across HIPS as a whole. The VRU look to continue their involvement with this week of action, as we help organise the next one in May 2025.

**Knife Crime (Op Sceptre) Partnership Activity Guide**

[The Knife Crime (Op Sceptre) Partnership Activity Guide](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Knife-Crime-Op-Sceptre-Partnership-Activity-Guide-1.pdf) was produced by the VRU this year, in collaboration with other partners. This document was made with Op Sceptre activities in mind, but can be used all year round. It is a valuable resource designed to support partners in tackling knife crime and serious violence. Included in the guide are, engagement ideas, proven activities, best practices as well as lots of links to useful resources that can be used to help organisations plan and deliver impactful initiatives. This guide has helped strengthen collaboration between partners, share key messages and work together more effectively to keep communities safe. This guide has been shared at events, in our social media and newsletter, as well being made available on our website.

**Stay Connected Campaign**

[The Stay Connected campaign](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Copy-of-VRP-Stay-Connected-11.pdf) was an initiative to help partners highlight their efforts in meeting the statutory Serious Violence Duty. The document offers a platform to highlight and celebrate colleagues who make a difference, help share stories, raise awareness, and inspire action and other initiatives across HIPS. This campaign was run in partnership between the VRU and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and is another example of good partnership work.

**Serious Violence and Knife Crime Survey**

A survey that has been running since July 2023, the serious violence and knife crime survey continued for 2024/25. This survey is shared across the HIPS area and was distributed across VRP communication channels, through VCSEs and within VRU engagement packs. Additionally, it was actively advertised at in-person engagement events where the VRU were present. This survey continues to gather predominantly young people’s thoughts and perceptions on knife crime as an issue and their own personal sense of safety surrounding it. This helps inform future practice and its evaluations are shared with partnering agencies as well as being included in this year’s SNA. In addition, other CSPs and partners have requested results or use of the survey to help facilitate discussion within their areas or organisations. Going forward the survey will continue to be used but potentially modified and updated to improve completion rates.

VRU-Commissioned Interventions

The VRU Grant is used to fund interventions in the community to tackle serious violence.

**Choices**

The Choices programme is aimed at staff and students in schools during the transition from year 6 to year 7. It employs social skills training, an approach to violence reduction that has been rated as ‘high impact’ by the [Youth Endowment Fund](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/toolkit/social-skills-training/).

This innovative programme was designed by [Artswork](https://artswork.org.uk/about-us/our-work/choices-programme) in partnership with BearFace Theatre and uses creative approaches to support staff and pupils to explore the challenges young people face, empowering them to make healthy choices in an increasingly complex world.

Choices involves teacher training and student sessions delivered by teachers and BearFace Theatre. Sessions focus on reducing risk factors for violence, including knife crime, exploitation and unhealthy relationships. Three transferable techniques are used; (i) philosophy for young people, (ii) enquiry-based learning and, (iii) the mantle of the expert. Delivery aims to be sustainable beyond the intervention period.

Choices has had consistently positive reviews throughout 2024/25, and 75% of pupils who took part in the last quarter said they felt confident to make positive changes even when their friends are making negative ones. This finding suggests the programme is impactful in delivering its message. From what detail is available, Choices has reached over 1500 pupils across HIPS, with this number likely to be much higher.

**Trauma Informed Practitioners (TIPs)**

TIPs have been recruited by [Rock Pool](https://rockpool.life/) to work with District Policing Teams working in the South East of Hampshire. The TIPs support police officers to embed trauma informed policing, focussing on supporting the public in a trauma informed way. The aim is to reduce the potential negative outcomes of Adverse Childhood Experiences and wider trauma, which includes risk factors for crime and violence.

TIPs observe patrols and review reports. They use reflective practice to de-brief incidents, reflecting on good practice and learning opportunities. TIPs highlight the importance of officers’ own trauma and supporting themselves and their resilience. Training sessions have been delivered to police officers and staff and early evaluation findings indicate improvements in trauma informed knowledge and attitudes. The Youth Endowment Fund is looking to understand more about the impact of trauma informed training and service re-design. An evaluation of this novel intervention will contribute to their broader knowledge.

During the 2024/25 financial year (Q1 to Q3), the TIPs attended 589 incidents as well as supporting officers by reviewing numerous incidents caught on body worn video. In response, the reception from police officers and staff has been positive with regard to their enhanced understanding as a result of trauma-informed practice training and they have reportedly formed positive and constructive relationships with the TIPs.

**RESET**

Delivered by [The Society of St James](https://ssj.org.uk/), the RESET service provides custody navigators who offer voluntary support to 18- to 25-year olds who have been arrested. It promotes a ‘whole system’, public health approach to reducing crime by minimising vulnerability and building protective factors. Young adulthood is a time of developmental milestones and transition, and can be a challenging period. RESET navigators are located in police custody centres and offer support in the reachable/teachable moment of crisis when a young person may be more open to change.

In addition to the constructive conversations in custody, provision in the community and signposting to other services are offered by the navigators. A strength-based needs assessment is undertaken and young adults are offered holistic support with relevant areas of their life, for example housing, mental health, education, training and employment.

Distance travelled data is collected to monitor the impact of this novel local project and an independent evaluation will contribute to the emerging national evidence base about custody navigator interventions.

From June 2023 to Q3 in 2024/25 there were 657 accepted referrals, 209 have engaged with further intervention or have gone on to successfully complete at the agreed time. Considering the cohort with whom the navigators are engaging, this is an impressive ‘take up’ rate. Alongside this, the navigators have also helped to coordinate activity in line with the Op Sceptre weeks when they target Habitual Knife Carriers (HKC).

**A&E Navigators**

Delivered by [No Limits](https://nolimitshelp.org.uk/), the A&E Navigators intervention places youth workers in emergency departments across HIPS and with the NHS 111 service. These Navigators reach young people presenting due to a violent incident or other cause of crisis, offering support in Emergency Departments alongside the clinical care delivered by medical teams. Youth Workers listen to the young people, give them advice, and provide them with coping mechanisms and signpost to other local support services. Social prescribing is available where required, providing further support within the community.

Delivery has demonstrated that the majority of presenting issues relate to mental health rather than direct links to violence, and an independent evaluation will explore the potential for this project to reduce violence. The Youth Endowment Fund finds A&E Navigator projects to have the potential for a high impact on violence reduction, however there is currently little evidence of this for HIPS. Hampshire’s evaluation will contribute to the understanding of this under-researched intervention.

From Q1 to Q3 in the 2024/25 financial year, there were a total of 6082 interactions by the A & E Navigators across HIPS. In addition to this, there was positive feedback from users.

**Get Ready for Construction Programme**

The Get Ready for Construction Programme focusses on supporting young people (mainly 16-to 17- years old) who are involved in serious violence, identified using a data driven approach. The overall aim of the programme is to help the young people into construction work by helping them earn their CSCS card (required on all construction sites). This programme was planned and delivered in collaboration between the Kings Trust and the VRU as well as further support from other agencies. Alongside Youth Justice Services, Police and Education services, the VRU were able to select a suitable cohort for the course. The young people were then given one-to-one, and taster sessions, before embarking on a weeks’ worth of CSCS card training. In some cases, the young people were also offered a variety of other training including, First Aid, Tower Training, and Fire Awareness training.

After the week-long programme, there was a follow-up period where some young people had work experience arranged for them, revision sessions, CSCS tests, and regular contact from Kings Trust workers as well as their regular youth workers. So far there have been courses in both Southampton and Portsmouth, with two more courses commissioned in both cities. There has also been continuous improvement and learning, with developments made to the planning process and delivery material, as well as developing relationships with employers who are keen to be involved.

Ten young people have taken part and completed this programme, and their successes have been mixed but their experience has been overly positive. An evaluation of the first course is due to be published in May 2025.

Evaluations

**Theory of Change**

The VRPs [Theory of Change](https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2023-2025-Violence-Reduction-Partnership-Theory-of-Change.pdf) is a living document, providing a foundation for the work of the partnership. It highlights the planned journey from partnership activities through to desired outcomes, and ultimately to violence reduction impacts. It provides the focus for VRP working groups and is reflected in their Terms of Reference, and informs partnership performance monitoring .

**Outcomes-Based Performance Framework**

Grounded in the Theory of Change, the [Outcomes-Based Performance Framework](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2024%2F03%2FOutcomes-Based-Performance-Framework-1-2.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) has been produced to provide measures of the VRP’s progress towards the aims under each strategic objective, and is continually used throughout the year by the VRP.

**Liverpool John Moores University’s Evaluation**

The LJMU’s Public Health Institute have been commissioned to evaluate the VRU-managed interventions. During 2024-25, the evaluators have used qualitative data to better understand the experience of key stakeholders. They have also established methods to collect quantitative data to measure the impact of interventions on service users. The VRP look forward to receiving draft reports and final reports for all interventions between the end of April and June 2025.

**VRU Evaluations**

The VRU have also led in-house evaluations for some of its initiatives to ensure we understand their effectiveness and to contribute to the evidence base. The most notable evaluation to be that will be completed by the VRU relates to the ‘Get Ready for Construction’ programme. This evaluation will include many aspects of young persons’ experiences of the programme. Firstly, reoffending data will be recorded at regular intervals post-intervention (around every 3 months), as well as recordings of the level of harm relating to any future offending (via the Cambridge Crime Harm Index). The evaluation will also focus on what the VRP have termed social capital, these are skills and characteristics someone possesses such as confidence, team work etc. This will be captured through surveys aimed at the young people and the professionals involved on the course. These will measure any progress in a young person’s social capital as a result of being on the programme. Finally, a mentoring survey will be completed, every month following the programme, by the young people. This survey will capture perceived effectiveness and thoughts of the young people on the mentoring service offered to them by the Kings Trust. The initial reports for the first course are expected in the early summer 2025.

A small piece of work the VRU also undertook was the analysis of the [serious violence and knife crime survey,](https://forcesserip-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jackson_sweeting_hampshire_police_uk/Documents/Documents/Completed%20Reports/Knife%20crime%20survey%20December%202024.docx) this was then written up as a report. This report was shared with partners within the DAP who were able to comment and use the survey in their own work. Overall, there were 217 complete responses to analyse, with results including 47% strongly agreeing or agreeing that they were worried about others carrying a knife and 43% agreeing or strongly agreeing that it’s ok to do whatever it takes to protect yourself. These results highlight the importance of such work and help highlight the thoughts of young people more clearly.

Finally the VRP sought to better understand the [gaps in provision in CSPs, VCSEs, and Youth Justice Services across HIPS](https://forcesserip-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jackson_sweeting_hampshire_police_uk/Documents/Documents/Completed%20Reports/Gap%20Analysis%20Report%20for%20SV%20Support%20Services%20November%202024%20%28002%29.docx). Colleagues from these three organisations were given a survey to complete, which was later analysed and results were shared with partners at a working group. The survey was later requested by other partners.

The analysis found that the most commonly accessed form of support was from statutory services, in addition they were also the most effective, according to survey recipients. Another interesting finding was that the police were the third most commonly accessed support service, however, were rarely mentioned as an effective support service, indicating there is further need to explore this perception. After the analysis was conducted, a list of recommendations were drawn up to help address some of the gaps identified as a result of the analysis.

**Evaluation in Partnership**

At one of the regular TVRP meetings last year, we conducted a piece of evaluation work with partners and developed a PESTELO analysis. In small groups, partners noted their thoughts on how PESTELO (political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental, and organisational) factors effected their roles and organisations in tackling serious violence. These thoughts were then collated and analysed, and have been included in the HIPS-wide SNA. This exercise was effective at better understanding the thoughts of partners, as well as the challenges and opportunities they face in their role within the TVRP.

The issue of evaluation is consistently promoted by the VRU to partners. By evaluating what we do, we can understand what works. Therefore, we can effectively implement a public health approach. Either by evaluating our own work and sharing with partners, or by encouraging and supporting our partners to evaluate their own work, we can help build and inform better practices across HIPS. In addition to this, the VRU uses its position to share national best practice with partners. Throughout 2025/26, the VRU will continue to raise the importance of evaluation with partners, with the hope that evaluation of interventions can become a firm foundation in reducing serious violence.