

# Evaluation Strategy

## Introduction

The VRP Response Strategy emphasises the importance of ensuring that evaluations contribute meaningfully to the existing evidence base and actively inform decision-making processes. This approach is essential to maximising the impact of our interventions and ensuring that resources are directed where they can be the most effective.

This year, we have moved towards conducting evaluations internally rather than commissioning external evaluators. Conducting evaluations internally offers distinct advantages. Our close relationships with local partners not only provide valuable contextual insight but also enable more effective problem solving around both the design and delivery of the interventions, as well as the evaluation process itself. Through established data sharing agreements, we have timely and direct access to relevant datasets, which enhances the quality and efficiency of our analysis. Additionally, internal evaluation allows for the production of bespoke reports that are tailored to the specific needs of our partners, ensuring that findings are both actionable and aligned with local strategic objectives.

## Key Principles of Evaluation



- Collaborative research environment
- Endorsing use of the evidence base
- Data driven approach to identifying cohorts
  - Effective data sharing
  - Evidencing impact



### Aims

Improve our approach to evaluation

### Current Picture

Evaluation is being integrated into project planning, identifying required data collection methods from the outset.

### Success Measure

Evaluation is built into Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) interventions.

Building the evidence base

Evaluation reports prepared by Liverpool John Moores University are nearing completion.

Published reports, tailored to our partners, contributing to the national and local evidence base. Evidence is brought into our local Data & Analysis Partnership (DAP) meetings to embed this practise with partners.

Engaging with the evidence base, ensuring that it informs decisions relating to intervention selection and delivery.

National evidence from Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is used in the commissioning of current projects.

Evidence consistently informs intervention selection and delivery decisions across all projects.

The VRU delivers a range of programmes designed to prevent and reduce serious violence across our communities. To ensure these interventions are effective and deliver meaningful outcomes, each programme undergoes a structured evaluation process. These evaluations assess impact, identify lessons learned and highlight best practice.

Evaluation reports will be shared with partners and stakeholders to strengthen both the local and national evidence base.

Overview of Current VRP Evaluations:

Interventions	Activity	Success Measure
Focused Deterrence	Focused Deterrence is a high support intervention for young people under 18 years in Southampton, who have been identified as being at high risk of violence. The intervention is being run as part of a Randomised Control Trial (RCT).	Ability to identify and engage a cohort of high need individuals for targeted support. Evaluation to be produced 2026
Get Started in Construction	One-week programmes for 16-17 year-olds identified as high risk of involvement or vulnerability to serious violence. The course, run by the Kings Trust, focuses on construction skills, certification exam preparation, and onward mentoring to support pathways into employment.	Ability to identify and engage a cohort of high need individuals for targeted support. Evaluation to be produced 2026
Choices	Social skills and problem solving workshops for children and staff in schools for year 6 and 7.	Evaluation report produced 2025

RESET

Voluntary custody intervention for 18-25 year olds to divert offenders from criminality and into education, training or employment.

Evaluation report produced 2025

Young Futures Prevention Panels

The panels identify young people facing poorer outcomes and who are vulnerable to being drawn into crime. It brings together services to improve access to opportunities and support, promoting positive outcomes.

Ability to identify and engage a cohort of individuals with specific risk factors for targeted support. Performance monitoring for national evaluation



### Enablers

- Established data sharing arrangement with access to police and partner data.
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Together (HIOWT) as a mechanism to readily share police data.
- Home Office Grant Agreement prioritises evaluation and evidence building.
- Commitment to organisation learning, incorporating insights from previous work.

### Barriers

- Limited staffing capacity and reliance on short term contracts.
- Short-term funding cycles create sustainability challenges; uncertainty around VRU funding leaves a gap.
- Lack of national guidance.
- Competing priorities reducing partner capacity and engagement in evaluation activities.

### Understanding the value of our work

- We will understand the cost of serious violence to the public.
- We aim to develop a cost-benefit analysis to demonstrate the impact of our work as a VRP.

