

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

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

Response Strategy 2025 - 2027



Foreword

As Police and Crime Commissioner, one of my key drivers has been to lead a determined partnership response to prevent serious violence. Whilst we have made good progress still too often children are committing serious crime and inflicting great harm on each other and their community. 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 will 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 must 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, prosocial alternative pathway that counters the exploitative narrative into gang mentality and violence.

This strategy sets out how partner agencies will work together to tackle the root causes of violence in our communities by taking a public health prevention approach. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 puts a 'Serious Violence Duty' on agencies to work together. As chair of the Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership I will oversee delivery of this strategy.

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 children and young people.

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 & Crime Commissioner – Hampshire & Isle of Wight



Executive Summary

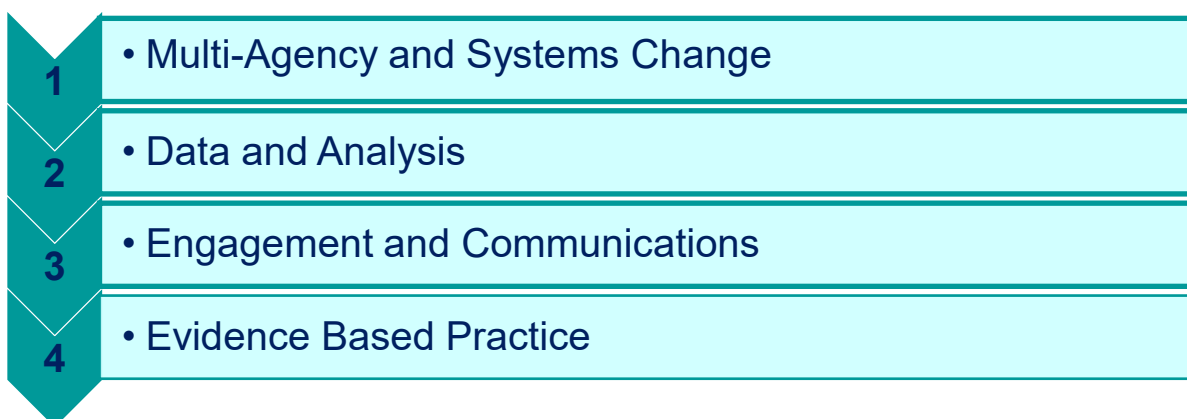
This Response Strategy sets out the direction and activity for the Violence Reduction Partnership from 2025 to 2027 and was subject to annual review. The Serious Violence Duty was introduced under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 and requires specified and relevant authorities 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 across the Police force-area covering Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) defined 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. This definition is subject to review by the VRP.

The VRP 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.

The VRP **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 areas of focus. Delivery in these priority areas will be supported by Home Office funding as well as through existing resources available to the VRP.



The [VRP Theory of Change \(ToC\)](#) explains how partnership activity will lead to long term positive impact in our communities.

Progress will be monitored through an Outcomes Based Performance Framework (OBPF).

Introduction

VRP Response Strategy, which will be published and overseen by the Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP).

A VRP Project Plan will be regularly updated monitoring each strategic area of focus to achieve delivery of this VRP Response Strategy.

Introduced as part of the PCSC Act 2022, the [Serious Violence Duty](#) requires Specified Authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area. These Specified Authorities are:

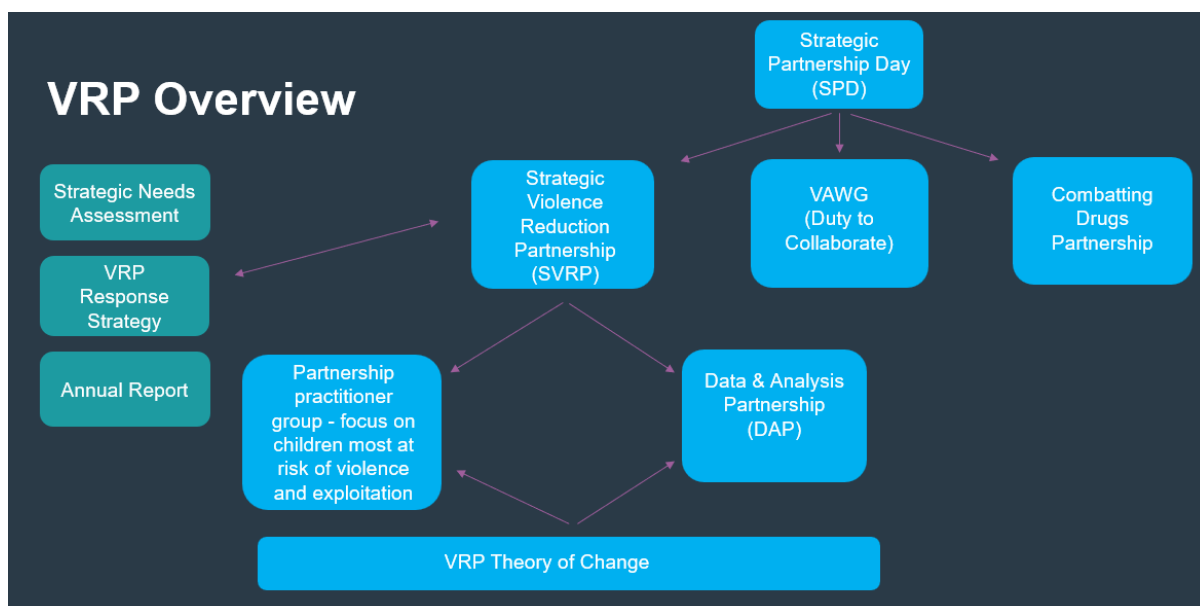
- Police
- Probation
- Youth Justice Service
- Fire and Rescue Service
- Health
- Local Authorities

Relevant Authorities include Prisons, Youth Custody and Education who should cooperate with the Specified Authorities, as necessary.

The VRP will take a Public Health Approach to prevention. The underlying principles of this approach 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.

The Strategic Partnership Day (SPD) is hosted quarterly by the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss serious violence, the Duty to Collaborate and Combatting Drugs in a collaborative forum. Figure 1 provides an overview of the partnership governance.



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. The VRP recognises 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:

- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategies
- Trauma Informed Strategy
- Hampshire, Isle of Wight Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Exploitation Strategy
- Youth Justice Strategies
- Public Health Strategies
- Safeguarding Children Boards

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) are hosted by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and provide strategic coordination and support to the VRP (whilst funded to do so).

1

• Multi-Agency and Systems Change



The VRP will focus on collaborating to improve the whole system response to serious violence. The system response to risk factors in people's lives is highly complex and can be difficult to navigate for professionals and members of the community.

Whilst no single agency owns the partnership system response, partners share responsibility for improving and developing the system together. The partnership system response must link Voluntary, Community, Social and Enterprise (VCSE) Sector provision and statutory services to meet the needs of our communities.

Where complex systems exist, communication and relationships become key pillars that support understanding the whole system and making changes. No single leader or professional has the same lens on the system meaning that investment in looking 'up and out' is required.

Key objectives are:

- Promote strategic alignment
- Increase multi-agency collaboration
- Foster positive and open professional relationships across the VRP
- Ensure VCSE Sector has a voice in strategic and local partnerships
- Reduce duplication of activity



By understanding what is delivered in other key partnerships (Youth Justice Boards, Local Safeguarding Children's Boards, Integrated Care Partnership and Community Safety Partnerships) the VRP will not duplicate work driven through those forums.

The VRP will collaborate broadly across a range of partnerships. The Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP) will oversee the Data and Analysis Partnership (DAP) and a partnership practitioner group that focuses on children most at risk of violence and exploitation, but partners will also report on their broader collaboration to the SVRP.

The VRP will seek to reduce the amount of published strategies and align where possible.

The quarterly SVRP meetings will be convened in person and will include VCSE representatives from across our communities.

The VRP will promote evidence led culture and practice. There will be monthly VRP communications and partners will have access to forums to share best practice and exchange ideas.



Actions

- The PCC will convene quarterly SVRP that brings together SROs from Specified Authorities and wider partners to deliver the VRP Response Strategy.
- VRP Partners will hold tactical level meetings to consider how local partnerships can improve response to people and communities who are at most risk of serious violence.
- Senior Responsible Officers (SRO) for Specified Authorities will drive system and cultural change in partnership in line with the Serious Violence Duty.
- VRP Partners will co-produce the responses to serious violence required to meet the serious violence duty.
- VRP Partners will improve systems to use police data that identify people at risk and develop multiagency responses around the person.
- The VRP will develop clear strategic and tactical plans that ensure that the VRP response to children is in line with 'Child First' tenets and deliver a multi-agency safeguarding response around children.
- VRP Partners will identify and engage suitable Education leaders to join the SVRP membership in response to SNA and this Response Strategy.

2

• Data and Analysis



Data and analysis are central to an effective response to serious violence. No single dataset provides a complete picture, so joining up data across partner agencies is essential to understand drivers, trends, and risk factors. Building this understanding underpins a public health approach, enabling partners to target resources where they are most needed and monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions.

While the SNA draws on data from all relevant authorities, the VRP is committed to closing gaps, applying rigorous analysis and turning data into actionable insight. This approach ensures decisions are informed, tailored, and responsive. The VRP can use data to focus interventions on the cohorts with the greatest need, ultimately improving outcomes for communities across HIPS.

Key objectives are:

- Promote evidence-led understanding of serious violence, enabling targeted responses to priority cohorts and locations.
- Make evidence-led decisions on tailored interventions, improving the effectiveness of serious violence prevention.
- Share best practice across partners to strengthen collective learning.
- Streamline coordinated data sharing across all specified authorities.
- Improve VRP capability to demonstrate impact and value for money.



The VRP will facilitate efficient data sharing between all specified authorities across HIPS to identify trends in serious violence and identify the people and places most at risk to inform a partnership response. The VRP will promote a data led culture, focusing on the evidence base.

The VRP will collaborate to co-produce a HIPS wide SNA to produce findings and recommendations for the partnership.

Where appropriate, the VRP will progress Information Governance arrangements to enable data sharing, particularly for datasets identified by the SNA as a priority, such as health and education data.

The VRP will continue to develop consistent practice around sharing and using Police data in partnership to prevent serious violence.

The VRP collaborative production of the annual Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)

Collaboration and co-production of the SNA is facilitated through the DAP. Partners work together to produce analysis which can be collated in District Chapters. The HIPS wide SNA brings together over 30 data sources to help identify the drivers of serious violence in the local area and the cohorts of people most impacted or at risk. Key findings and recommendations are produced for the consideration of the partnership.



Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The VRP will hold regular Data & Analysis Partnership (DAP) meetings convening partners to coordinate efficient and effective data sharing. This will provide the evidence base of the local picture of serious violence, VAWG and ASB.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The VRP will maintain the Partnership Data Tracker to monitor data sharing progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ VRP SROs will encourage collaboration on and co-production of a HIPS-wide SNA, including local chapters. This will be facilitated through the DAP to inform the Response Strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The police will develop sustainable and consistent sharing of Police data into partnerships utilising PowerBI.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The VRP will develop local multi-agency conference arrangements to safeguard people and communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The VRP will develop a VRP Data Strategy

3

• Engagement and Communications



The VRP understands the importance of listening to and working with our communities in developing effective responses to serious violence. The voices of those people most likely to be victims or perpetrators of serious violence are often unheard. The VRP will work with and for communities to ensure that people feel listened to and safer.

VRP Partners engage extensively with the community either as single agencies or as broader partnerships such as Community Safety Partnerships. The VRP Response Strategy will respond to the community voice but recognises that additional engagement activity at a HIPS level is less likely to provide insight than local engagement.

Key objectives are:

- Strive to give the community an equal voice to a partner agency
- Develop and share practice to capture unheard voices
- Develop and share practice to support meaningful engagement with children and young people
- Collate relevant engagement activity and share findings through the SNA
- Develop a counter narrative



By understanding the key outcomes and themes from local and national engagement the VRP will incorporate the community voice into the SNA to inform the Response Strategy.

VRP partners will continue to hear and capture the community or service user voice within their locality or service.

The VRP will share best practice models and share national findings to develop more consistent engagement activity.

The VRP will develop a counter narrative based around supporting trusted adults to have meaningful conversations with children and young people at risk.



Actions

- The SNA will capture engagement outcomes and themes and present them to inform VRP partners.
- The VRP will publish and share models and good practice around meaningful engagement with children and young people.
- Specified Authorities, VCSE partners and other statutory bodies and partnerships will listen and respond to communities and service users.
- The VRP will develop external and internal facing resources to support a counter narrative via trusted adults.
- The VRP will maintain communication channels that support partner collaboration and sharing of good practice.

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• Evidence Based Practice



The VRP will use data to understand risk and protective factors for serious violence in our communities. The VRP will work collaboratively in partnership to implement and evaluate evidence based interventions for people and communities in need.

The VRP will refer to the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Toolkit as a primary source of effective practice and guidance. By evaluating local interventions, we will contribute to national learning. The VRP remains open to working innovatively to meet local need. When working with children and young people, the VRP will adopt the ‘Child First’ principles as sound evidence based practice.

The [Child First tenets](#) are as follows:

As children	Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.
Building pro-social identity	Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.
Collaborating with children	Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.
Diverting from stigma	Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

The VRP will support and complement the work of the Trauma Informed (TI) Executive Board.

Key objectives are:

- Promote evidence based practice with statutory and VCSE partners.
- Support and divert children and young people at risk of serious violence and exploitation.
- Promote ‘Child First’ practice with statutory and VCSE partners.
- Evaluate key VRP interventions and projects



What?

The VRP will make use of the YEF toolkit as a guide for ‘what works’ in reducing serious violence. The VRP will take a ‘Child First’ approach to children and young people.

The VRP will use available funding to deliver interventions and programmes with a strong evidence base to support effectiveness. The VRP will evaluate the impact of their activity.

The VRP will promote a culture of evaluation across the VRP working with academic partners to develop realistic and sustainable evaluation approaches. The VRP will seek to develop a collaborative research environment.

The VRP will support CSP work around geographic ‘hot spots’ promoting problem solving in partnership and evaluation of impact.

The VRP will develop a [Theory of Change](#) and an Outcomes Based Performance Framework to assess the impact of VRP activity.



How?

Actions

- The VRP will identify programmes and interventions to reduce serious violence.
- The VRP will evaluate interventions and projects.
- The VRP will seek joint training opportunities and develop forums to promote evidence based practice in partners.
- The VRP will develop a VRP [Evaluation Strategy](#).



The role of the Senior Responsibility Officer (SRO) in Specified Authorities

All Specified Authorities will identify an SRO, who will:

- ✓ Understand the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty under the PCSC Act 2022.
- ✓ Lead change within their organisation and in partnership to deliver this Response Strategy.
- ✓ Maintain an active and meaningful role across the partnership, including identifying the right individuals to collaborate at the DAP and the new practitioner group that focuses on children most at risk of violence and exploitation.
- ✓ Prioritise and lead responses to data sharing requests in line with the Serious Violence Duty.
- ✓ The Home Office have published guidance on '[Partnership Engagement](#)' for Serious Violence Duty statutory services, which provides further role responsibilities for each Specified Authority.

Monitoring VRP impact

The VRP have developed an updated [Theory of Change](#) which explains how the actions taken by partners will deliver the intended outcomes in our communities. This framework sets out the collaborative activities and interventions delivered across the partnership to make people safer across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

To measure and demonstrate impact, the VRP uses an Outcomes Based Performance Framework. This framework provides a structured approach to monitoring changes in outputs, outcomes, and impacts aligned to our strategic areas of focus. This provides a clear picture of how partnership activities contribute to reducing violence and improving community safety.

The Outcomes Based Performance Framework tracks key measures, including:

- NHS hospital admissions for assaults with a sharp object
- Knife-enabled serious violence recorded by the police
- Homicides recorded by the police - particularly where the victims are under 25 and in non-domestic settings.
- ONS Knife crime data and key Police data metrics.

Both the [Theory of Change](#) and the Outcomes Based Performance Framework are living documents.

By combining multiple data sources, we can track progress against national and local priorities while ensuring that our approach remains evidence-driven and accountable.

This integrated data approach allows us to identify emerging risks, assess effectiveness and inform decisions on commissioning, improving impact and value for money.