

Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit

Briefing – February 2020

Introduction

Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit is preparing to enter its second year.

We have team members representing youth offending teams, schools and colleges, public health, police, children's social care, probation community safety partnerships, Lancashire PCC, Lancashire County Council and the NHS.

Our vision is for every person living or working in Lancashire to feel and be safe from violence and violent crime.

Check out our strategy consultation and VRU launch events, details at the end of this briefing.



Members of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit team

Little book and beyond!

Some of the VRU team are members of a writing team that has written a successful book to explain the lifelong effects of unrecognised and untreated trauma on young people called, "The Little Book of ACEs".

The book is written to raise awareness, support training in workplaces and initiate community conversations that consider the impact of adverse childhood experiences throughout a person's life.

The book aims to spark and inform wider community conversations to mitigate against the consequences of existing ACEs and prevent further occurrences.



The book has been distributed across Lancashire public services via the [LSCB website](#) and nationally by NHS England. The World Health Organisation is looking to translate it and distribute globally.

The book contains information about ACEs, resources to use to help explain them, case studies and some principles to consider around prevention and management. There is a follow up being drafted called "The Slightly Bigger Book of ACEs" which will take a similar approach to explore how to prevent and manage ACEs across communities and society.

Alongside these two books a further VRU writing team is currently developing "A Little Book of Reducing Violence" which explains the Lancashire VRU commitment to evolving preventative work alongside enforcement strategies. It is hoped that this will be available in the Spring.

Download your copy of [The Little Book of ACEs](#).

ROC Conversations

The first ROC Conversation is taking place on 12th February at Turf Moor in Burnley, with a further event planned in Skelmersdale on 24th March 2020.

These community conversations have been commissioned to hear the voice of people within the community, identify issues and what will make a difference within neighbourhoods.



Grants for Community Projects

Eleven community organisations are starting to deliver a range of programmes into schools, colleges and community areas to help prevent and tackle violence and knife crime issues.

Fleetwood Town FC Community Trust were successful in securing funding to deliver programmes into primary and high schools and the pupil referral unit in the Wyre area.

In Preston two organisations received funding with **Empower The Invisible** delivering street based youth and community projects while **Preston United Youth Development Programme** will deliver workshops with young people in the Broadgate and Kingsfold area as well as train up a number of peer mentors to support ongoing work across the two areas.

In the Blackburn with Darwen area three organisations are working together with the local authority youth services and the **Youth Offending Team** to deliver programmes into schools, colleges and in the community.

Blackburn Youth Zone will be offering taster opportunities for young people with a focus on

boxing. **Inspire Motivate Overcome (IMO)** will work in schools and community bases to deliver workshop sessions and Blackburn with **Darwen Healthy Living** providing a peer mentoring programme including training in first aid skills.

In West Lancashire **The Liberty Centre** will be delivering the WOW Programme to young people who have dis-engaged with or become demotivated at school.

The Lancashire Colleges received funding to deliver workshop programmes to students at 11 of their colleges across Lancashire. These are being delivered by Byron Highton, brother of knife crime victim Jon-Jo Highton.

People Empowering People (PEP) received funding to build on the Knives Take Lives programme delivered last year and develop education resources and videos to be available to use in schools across Lancashire.

Whilst most schools programmes are focussed on high schools and colleges, two organisations were successful in securing funding to deliver bespoke programmes into primary schools. **AFTA Thought** will be using a drama based approach to deliver key messages to Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils while **Every Action Has Consequences** will be using the story of the Adam Rogers to teach about the serious impact that violence can have.

Supporting prisoners and their families

Work is progressing to develop a model of work with prisoners and their families.

The VRU team have visited HMP Parc to look at their approach. We were impressed with their partnership model between the prison and local schools, where children are supported by schools to visit incarcerated parents and undertake work together.



HMP Lancaster Farms

We are looking to pilot this within Lancashire on a voluntary basis, starting with HMP Lancaster Farms. Selected prisoners will undertake a programme designed to support the development of understanding of healthy relationships. Work will be undertaken with their family to support them using partners in the community and, where relevant, linking in with the local schools.

The aim of the pilot as a whole is to reduce the impact of parental incarceration on children and improve resettlement outcomes for prisoners and their families.

Training and support will be provided to teachers taking part in this pilot. This training will also use a book written by young people in Lancashire who have had the experience of a parent who has gone to prison.

This text has been developed from work completed by serving prisoners and will be available as a resource for schools and prisons across the county.

This is a holistic approach to an issue that is key to the underpinning experiences of adverse childhood experiences, trauma and separation and contributes to safer, more resilient communities. Outcomes will be carefully measured and evaluated.

Knife Crime

Operation Edge has continued across Lancashire to support local policing teams, targeting activity

in hotspot locations, predominantly on Friday and Saturday nights.

Increase in stop and search

There has been a 108% increase in the use of police stop and search powers between 1st April 2019 and 31st Jan 2020 compared with the same period the year before.

The knife arches were deployed to support Christmas and New Year operations and during one night whilst supporting the night time economy operation in Lancaster, one reveller commented that they “have never felt safer” due to the additional police presence.



Members of the public passing through a knife arch

Knife bins

Following the introduction of two knife surrender bins outside community centres in Skelmersdale, a further 16 bins have now been installed across the county. Already, a large number of knives and weapons have been surrendered and these will now be safely destroyed.



A police officer alongside one of the new knife bins.

National knife surrender

Operation Sceptre, the national knife surrender will take place between 23rd-29th March 2020.

An evidence-based approach

Liverpool John Moore's University have been commissioned to complete an academic evaluation of the knife crime assets and projects to enable an evidenced based assessment of their future use.



Public health approach to tackling violence

Members of the VRU attended the College of Policing public health and prevention event at Ryton on Dunsmore.

Over 100 prevention leads from English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish policing areas attended. They heard about some of the fantastic work that's being done across all four nations around trauma informed practice, public health approaches and early intervention.

Lancashire VRU colleagues presented to delegates around the pan-Lancashire approach to trauma informed practice.



Finally, the College of Policing launched the seven "principles of a public health approach to policing" which have been prepared with Public Health England and officers from Lancashire.

MARAC Review

The MARRAC (Multi-Agency Risk Reduction and Co-ordination) process is being replaced with a new model which is nearing rollout in central and south Lancashire.

The team are currently in the final stages of planning, which includes formulating an operating protocol and agreement between agencies - this is currently being sent to partners.

Once this is complete the team will embark on their communications plan which will see them speaking to managers and practitioners in the areas of Preston, Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire.

This will give the opportunity to show partners the model and how it will integrate with the work within these areas. The team have gained two new members in the past four weeks from the National Probation Service and children's social care which will provide some essential resources for an important time for the implementation.

Save the date!

Strategy Consultation event

Have your say on the Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit strategy.

Tuesday 25th February: 9.30am - 11.30am

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/90151163557>

Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit launch

Come and join us for our official launch.

Afternoon of Friday 27th March, 2020

UCLAN Preston Campus

Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit

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