

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network News

June 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the June edition of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network newsletter. We wish you and your family well as we navigate our way through the pandemic.

Some of our team have been redeployed into other roles supporting the effort around COVID-19 but we are still maintaining our work to reduce and prevent violence across the county.

Our newsletter looks a little different to last time. We've changed our name from Lancashire Violence Reduction **Unit** to Lancashire Violence Reduction **Network** to more accurately reflect the way we work after discussions within the team and with partners.

We also now have a logo and [website](#) and are on [Twitter](#), giving us more ways to stay in touch.

We hope you enjoy this latest update. If you'd like to discuss any of the items further do get in touch.

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DIVERT custody intervention programme launches in Preston



The DIVERT team

In March we launched our first DIVERT custody intervention programme base at Preston Police Station in conjunction with Preston North End Community Football Trust.

DIVERT coaches work with 18-25 year olds who are in police custody for violent crime, offering support to make positive changes in their lives.

Arriving in police custody can be a particularly low point in a young person's life and DIVERT coaches use this time as a teachable moment. At the Metropolitan Police Services the DIVERT programme reduced reoffending rates from 27% to 8%.

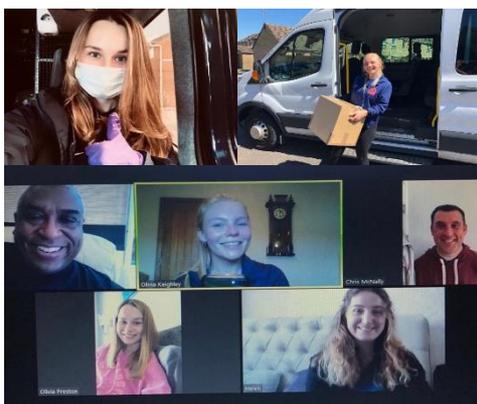
The programme is a partnership between Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, Lancashire Police, New Era and the following football community trusts:

- Accrington Stanley Community Trust
- AFC Fylde Football Club Community Trust
- Blackburn Rovers Community Trust
- Blackpool Football Club Community Trust
- Fleetwood Town Community Trust
- Preston North End Community and Education Trust
- Shrimps Trust Morecambe Football Club



In time, it will also roll-out to police custody suites in Blackburn, Blackpool and Lancaster.

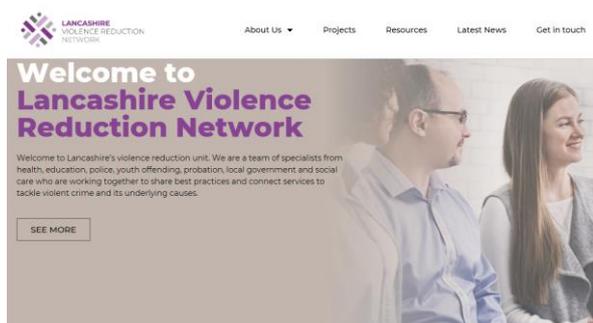
Pandemic restrictions have seen DIVERT coaches being flexible in finding new ways to support communities. As they have been unable to work within custody suites coaches have used this time to undergo further training, volunteer within communities, and develop links with Emergency Department Navigators, Lancashire County Council, care leavers and the Youth Offending team to enhance their skills and embed themselves in their locality.



Lancashire VRN website launched

We now have an online presence at LancsVRN.co.uk where you can find more about the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, our approach and projects. You can see our VRN Strategy, Needs Assessment and Little Book of Aces on our [resources page](#).

You can also keep in touch with use on Twitter at [@LancsVRN](https://twitter.com/LancsVRN).



Pan-Lancashire domestic abuse insight and #noexcuseforabuse campaign

Lancs VRN developed and ran a domestic and sexual violence and abuse survey in May to better understand what is happening within service providers and, using their professional judgement, to start to plan for the post-lockdown period. A [summary of the findings](#) is available on our website.

Lancashire VRN is working as part of the Lancashire Resilience Forum to create a county-wide domestic abuse campaign as part of our response to COVID-19.

Sadly, the restrictions brought about by the pandemic have increased the likelihood that victims and their abusers are together for longer periods of time.

The campaign is being designed to raise awareness of the help and support available to victims and perpetrators along with how and where people can report their concerns.

The campaign will span digital and traditional media and will be accompanied with the hashtag #noexcuseforabuse. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

Funding secured for second year

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has secured further funding of £1.16M for 2020-21 from the Government to continue the work of the Violence Reduction Network as detailed in the Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy. This will enable Lancs VRN to deliver on the vision for every person living or working in Lancashire to feel and be safe from violence and violent crime through the four key priorities: prevention, enforcement, culture and developing an evidence-base of what works.

Lancashire Constabulary has also received further funding of £1,189,610 for 2020-21 from the Home Office Police Surge Fund to support police led prevention, enforcement and investigation of serious violence activity. This will enable the Constabulary to continue some of the activities commenced in 2019-20 with previous funding secured from the Home Office as well develop new areas of work. The Constabulary work is being coordinated by the VRN to ensure that it supports and is supported by the wider work of the VRN.

Lancashire VRN Strategy and Needs Assessment finalised

Thank-you to those who attended the consultation events earlier in the year. We valued the opportunity to further build relationships with individuals from across the county and hear your views on our proposed strategy. We have used this insight to further inform our strategy, which you can download along with the needs assessment from our [website](#).

Here are a few takeaways from the consultation:

The Consultation

The consultation ran for 6 weeks from the 23rd January 2020 until 5th March 2020. Engagement opportunities included:

- E-mail feedback
- Telephone calls
- Face-to-face discussions
- 2 x strategy consultation workshops

Public, private, voluntary sectors and local communities were contacted.

100+ partners and organisations directly invited to comment.

Common Themes

Key themes within the comments received included a need:

For joint strategies and integrated working.



To share good practice.

To keep positive messages and communications flowing throughout organisations and communities.



To work with community safety partnerships as local delivery mechanisms.

For a cultural shift throughout organisations and communities to sustain the strategy.



Supporting vulnerable people during lockdown

Commissioned services

Earlier in the year Lancs VRN commissioned a number of projects that aim to address the underlying causes and drivers of knife crime. Some of these have still been able to operate during the pandemic restrictions.

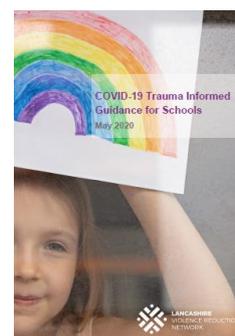


Empower The Invisible Founders Rosie Latham and Daniel Wolstencroft

Empower the Invisible is a group of people with lived experience of childhood sexual abuse who offer support to others. During the pandemic they have moved their support groups online, have maintained their telephone enquiry line and have continued to conduct socially distanced welfare checks on young people in Preston.

Trauma Informed Guidance for Schools and Organisations

Lancs VRN has developed trauma informed guidance to support schools as more children return to school. The guidance includes information on what signs of trauma to look out for in children and young people, how to help, signs of trauma and self-care for staff and how we can strengthen communities along with a list of useful resources. The document has been circulated to schools throughout Lancashire and has been well-received.



Trauma Informed Organisational Development Framework

Our team have created a Trauma Informed Organisational Development Framework which will soon be available on our website to help organisations to ascertain how trauma-informed their practices, policies, and procedures are and understand the gaps in their needs.

Trauma informed practice has always been at the core of our work within Lancs VRN and whilst most leaders have told us they understand why trauma informed and public health approaches are important, they want and need more assistance on what to do and how to deliver it. The Trauma Informed Organisational Development Framework has been written by a team of subject matter experts who understand our Lancashire systems and process to promote discussion within organisations and take their next step in becoming more trauma informed.

COVID-19 incident data reports

During the pandemic the VRU team has provided regular reports to partners on incidents in Lancashire related to COVID-19 to assist the VRN and Community Safety Partnerships in working together to help identify vulnerabilities and keep our communities safe. We are also working to assist in the recovery phase.

Emergency Department Navigator scheme available in Blackpool

The Emergency Department (ED) Navigator scheme is based within Blackpool Victoria Hospital's A&E department and helps people to access support services.

Blackpool was selected as the initial site from the pan-Lancashire multiagency baseline data. Scoping work is also underway at the Royal Blackburn Hospital.

Navigators are trained exploitation and health staff who may engage with anyone, but are particularly interested in people aged 10-39 years old who attend hospital with violence related presentations and injuries to listen, support, and signpost to relevant services.

The scheme has been running for around 18 hours a week for six months, and identifies around 30 patients a month. The scheme has been supported during the pandemic by DIVERT custody intervention coaches who have been unable to work from custody. Coaches continue to provide a non-judgmental offer of support after discharge. It is envisaged that this partnership and collaboration will develop further, so that young people can access help and support as required if they attend the ED or police custody.



A&E Navigators at Blackpool Victoria Hospital

VRN Representatives spoke at All Party Parliamentary Group on adverse childhood experiences

Primary school head teacher Siobhan Collingwood and Superintendent Justin Srivastava represented Lancashire VRN at the APPG on adverse childhood experiences held remotely on 4th June.

They highlighted the importance of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, how life experiences affect brain development and behaviour and practical strategies for helping children and young people. These include:

- Creating a safe and supportive environment
- Building trust and helping children and young people to regulate their emotions
- Raising awareness of school staff
- Modifying teaching strategies
- Informing others, making referrals and co-ordinating services
- Supporting families

They shared ideas on what a recovery curriculum could look like, namely:

- Making time for relationships
- Allowing time to embed learning
- Providing a safe, secure and stable environment
- Providing outdoor, fun, active, life skills activities
- Developing engaged learners who are independent and resilient.

They also highlighted Lancashire VRN's [COVID-19 Trauma Informed Guidance for Schools](#) which is available for download on the VRN website.

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