

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network

Progress Report
2019-2020

September 2020



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Introduction and highlights of this year's progress

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (LVRN) is coming towards its first full year of existence and this report highlights some of the key milestones and associated pieces of work that as a collective we are proud to present.

After the initial inception of the team, 2019/2020 saw us produce the Lancashire needs assessment and associated strategy. This work has enabled us to draft up a set of recommendations for tackling serious violence in all its forms by targeting the underlying causes of this endemic problem.

The focus of the LVRN is on bringing agencies and communities together, working in a trauma informed way to make a positive impact on the social determinants that impact on violent crime in our county.

This report gives a snapshot of the operational activity that has been taking place; it also focusses on the key work streams that we feel will make us best placed to impact on the current levels of violence. We will always focus on primary prevention opportunities but also appreciate the need to work in the here and now. We want to work with our communities and listen to the voices of lived experience as we develop our evidence based approaches to violence reduction.

We are looking forward hopefully to future years funding and have built in a strong emphasis on academic evaluation to ensure that the strategies that are employed in Lancashire have the best chance of positively impacting on community safety and the wellbeing of those who live and work in our county.

Serious violence crime figures

	2018/19	2019/20	Numerical change	% change		Q1 2019/20	Q1 2020/21	Numerical change	Percentage change
Homicide	19	28	+9	+47%		7	8	+1	+14%
Homicide	1144	1131	-13	-1%		327	257	-70	-21%
Knife	119	73	-46	-39%		24	21	-3	-13%
Gun	19,889	16,163	-3,726	-19%		4,430	3,260	-1,170	-26%
Violence with injury	1640	1362	-278	-17%		365	254	-111	-30%
Rape	1141	1182	+41	+4%		339	199	-140	-41%
Robbery	159	142	-17	-11%		29	32	+3	+10%
Agg Burglary	21,884	20,684	-1,200	-5%		5,139	5,315	+176	+3%
Domestic Abuse	598	686	+88	+15%		156	152	-4	-3%
Child Exploitation (Sexual/Criminal)	598	686	+88	+15%		156	152	-4	-3%

Source: Recorded crime dashboard, Lancashire Constabulary as of 25th August 2020. The gun and knife crime statistics have been obtained from the annual data return (ADR) submitted.

Overview of progress: Strategic Needs Assessment

LVRN Strategic Needs Assessment and problem profile provided a baseline understanding for ourselves, partners and the public about the reality of violence in Lancashire. The Strategic Needs Assessment also detailed the prevalence of the underlying risk factors of violence in Lancashire.

The data led to a number of key LVRN findings and recommendations from which a detailed action plan has been compiled. Highlights from the plan include:

Key finding	Progress
High levels of poor emotional and mental health in school aged children.	Development of two trauma informed resources for school staff to respond appropriately to children's varied needs. Development of multi-agency "How2" sessions for trauma informed practice.
High levels of hospital admissions for substance misuse (15-24 years) compared to England average.	Pilot of ED navigators at Blackpool Victoria Hospital has led to planned expansion to Blackburn with plans to upscale to Preston. Project Adder, drug related death and non-fatal overdose project being piloted in Blackpool from November 2020.
Variance across Lancashire for child development at age 2-2 ½ years old. Gaps in data for this indicator for Lancashire County Council.	This has accelerated the LVRN focus on parenting programmes and our workforce development strategies have a strong focus on early intervention and trauma informed approached within early years settings. We have partnered with the EPEC Scaling Programme to bring this approach to Lancashire. As an EPEC Hub we have identified (through our Strategic Needs Assessment) local, socially disadvantaged communities where we will be offering EPEC parenting courses. EPEC combines local professional parenting expertise with a parent-led approach to build community resilience. The LVRN has also commissioned an evaluation of the Caring Dads programme to use learning for further roll out of parenting programmes. Our response to the Strategic Needs findings has led to the secondment of a dedicated children's social worker on the team.
Lower than England average levels of good development at age 5 across the county	
Homicides are showing an increasing trend in Lancashire.	The need for early intervention within homicide prevention has seen the LVRN becoming further involved in homicide reviews. This includes developing the learning from local reviews to assessing the viability of undertaking non domestic homicide reviews and focusing on early intervention lessons.
Knife crimes only account for 1% of all serious violence in Lancashire.	We have ensured that our media campaigns on the subject of knife crime reflect appropriate messaging, not to portray an inaccurate picture of the prevalence of knife crime in Lancashire. For example, the "You Can" campaign.

Key finding	Progress
<p>Serious violence is prevalent across all districts of Lancashire, districts with highest levels of serious violence relative to population are Blackpool, Burnley, Preston and Blackburn with Darwen.</p>	<p>The LVRN have worked with the CSPs with the highest levels of serious violence relative to the populations of Blackpool, Burnley, Preston and Blackburn with Darwen. Activity has ranged from funding dedicated serious violence sergeants to assisting with a trauma informed lens to night time economy planning.</p> <p>Preston CSP have developed a local serious violence action plan which will be shared via the VRN with other CSPs.</p>
<p>Offenders of violence resulting in injury in Lancashire are most commonly aged 25-31 years old and white males.</p>	<p>Victims of serious violence remain a key theme and demonstrable activity includes developing a detailed community engagement strategy, learning from those with lived experience, to dedicated social media campaigns to prevent re-victimisation.</p> <p>The DIVERT programme is working with violent offenders to reduce re-offending.</p>
<p>44% of young people surveyed described a lack of after school activities for young people.</p>	<p>Our commissioned work includes diversionary activity with a strong focus on exclusions and absenteeism, recognising the strong links with other vulnerabilities and crime types such as child sexual and criminal exploitation and organised crime.</p>
<p>High levels of young people NEET</p>	
<p>High levels of fixed period exclusions persistent absenteeism.</p>	

Strategic priorities

Priority 1: Prevention

The aim of this priority will be achieved through three levels of prevention:

- 1) **Primary prevention:** Preventing the problem occurring in the first place. Acting to prevent the ‘causes of causes’ or risk factors for serious violence. Action to reduce inequalities in the risk factors for violence.
- 2) **Secondary prevention:** Early identification of risk factors of serious violence. Intervening early when risk factors of serious violence are identified to prevent violence incidents.
- 3) **Tertiary prevention:** Reducing reoffending or the negative consequences of serious violence.

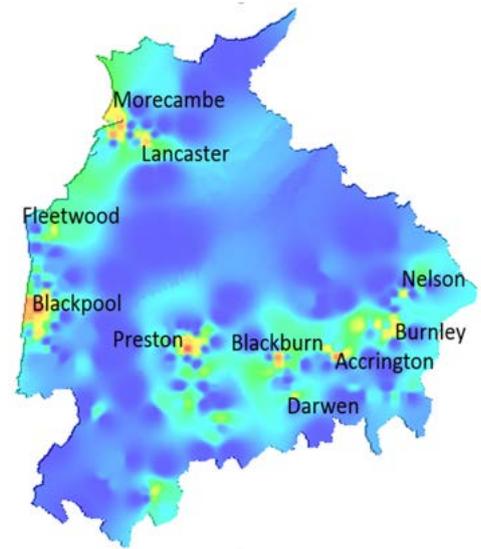
Some of the areas of action span the three areas of prevention. The following table provides a “snapshot” of the last 12 months activity.

Primary Prevention	Secondary Prevention	Tertiary Prevention
Trauma informed schools (resources around recognition of signs of trauma)	Encompass notifications	Prisoner and prisoners’ family programme
Trauma informed training with police	Drug related death and non-fatal overdose pilot in Blackpool	Trauma informed youth offending services
Trauma informed training with social care	Operation Genga: Partnership working to identify those at risk of being drawn into organised crime and effective interventions	Divert Lancashire programme
Operation Genga prevention activities in schools and communities	Targeting parenting programmes (Caring Dads, Strength Inside and Out)	Working with those with lived experience (e.g. co-producing materials for training)
Universal parenting programmes and targeted work with EPEC in Burnley and Caring Dads in Blackburn with Darwen.	Emergency department navigators	New approach to MARAC (Multi-agency risk assessment conference)
School prevention programmes (e.g. bullying and knife crime,) being delivered by funded third sector partners	Diversion activities for adolescents identified as having risk factors for serious violence (exploitation and youth zone vehicles)	
“You can” knife crime campaign to deter children and young people from becoming involved in knife crime	Vocational training for young people at risk of being involved in violence (youth engagement and development of youth Divert)	
Working with those with lived experience (e.g. co-producing materials for training)	“No excuse for abuse” domestic abuse and violence campaign	
Post-COVID-19 lockdown night time economy re-opening guidance	Working with those with lived experience (e.g. co-producing materials for training)	

Priority 2: Enforcement

Surge Activity

‘Surge’ activity was developed across the county in hotspot locations (see heat map). Police officers were deployed on overtime targeting locations and individuals in hotspot areas. A VRN sergeant has now been appointed within each Basic Command Unit (BCU) and will drive operational surge activity according to the risk and threat within their local areas. They will identify opportunities to collaborate effort between internal police departments (such as Licensing, Exploitation Teams, Genga) Community Safety Partnerships and partner agencies to develop longer term initiatives.



Weapons seized/recovered		
	2018/19	2019/20
Firearms	1640	1942
Knives/sharp instruments	2558	2475
Other Weapons	478	780
Total	3036	3255

Knife bins and knife arches

Knife surrender bins now deployed across Lancashire.

- East division alone have recovered nearly 500 weapons from the bins.
- Knife arches have been deployed across the county prior to the COVID-19 pandemic at venues such as schools, colleges, train stations and outside licensed premises.
- VRN sergeants will collate returns from the knife assets such as knife bins, wands and the deployments of the arches.



Community Engagement Vehicles

Three multi-purpose vehicles have been purchased to be used within each BCU to support local community engagement. The vehicles are fully equipped with Wi-Fi, computers, monitors and a range of games consoles, making them ideally suited to engagement with young people.



Operation Sceptre

During a single week of action in September 2019, Lancashire Police took part in Operation Sceptre and the outcome was:

- 15 test purchase operations were carried out against retailers
- Of the 15 test purchases, 11 were passes, 4 resulted in retail outlets failing the test purchase
- 147 knives or weapons surrendered
- 32 weapon sweep operations conducted with 4 knives recovered
- 70 engagement and education events held where key messages and information were distributed.

Stop and Search

Stop and search activity increased during COVID-19 lockdown; this was due to demand for service calls being reduced allowing for increased staff available to conduct proactive patrol.

Ethnicity of person searched 2019/20

- BAME – 14% of total number, 17% positive search result
- White – 67% of total number, 17% positive search result

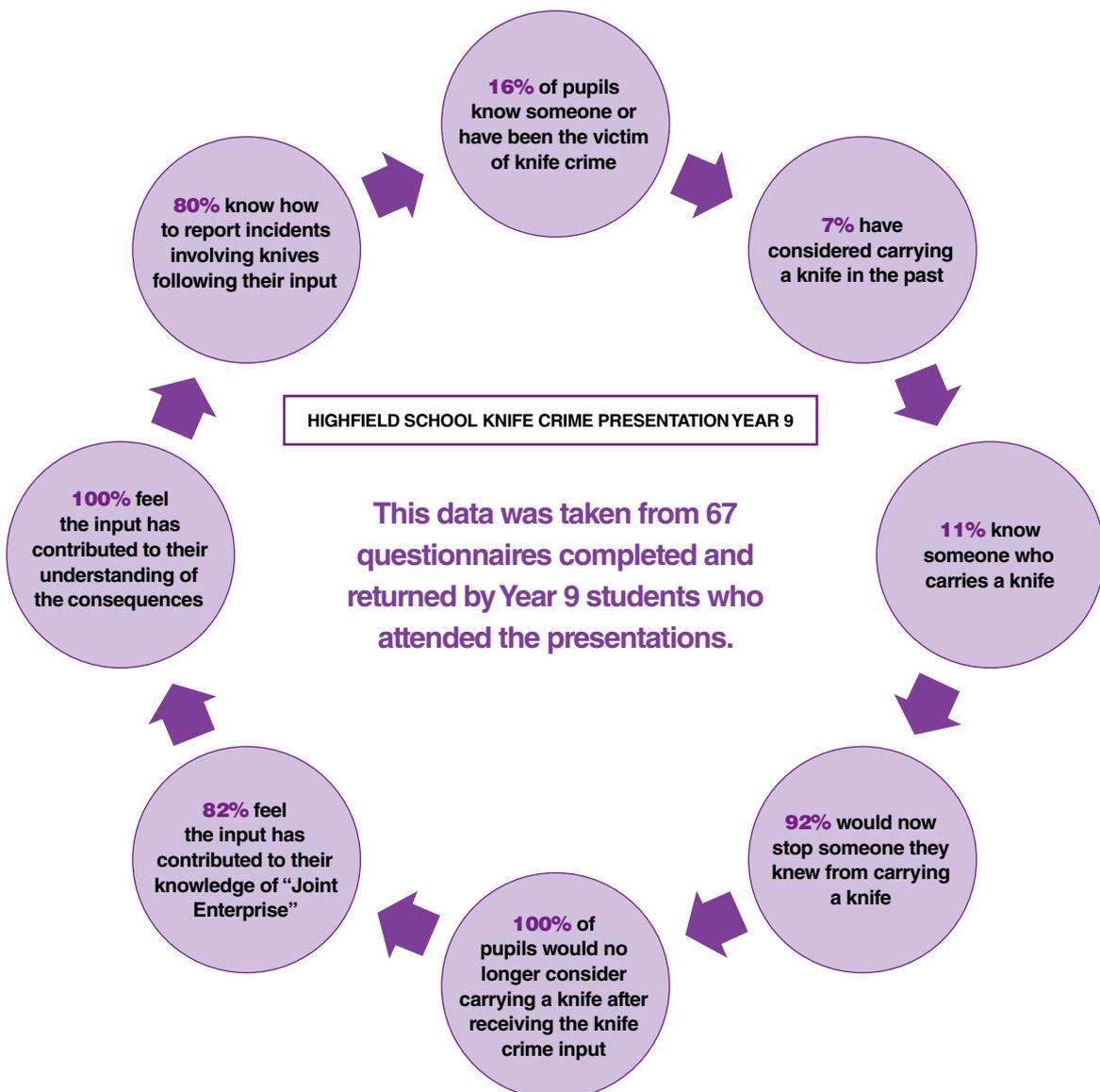
The VRN sergeants will support the development of “street skills” with police officers and staff to increase the appropriate use of stop search powers.

Educational presentations within schools to combat knife crime

- As part of Operation Edge staff have been delivering knife crime educational packages across the county.
- West BCU have over the past 12 months been delivering educational packages to secondary schools across the division (primarily Fylde and Wyre) to students between the ages of 11 and 16.
- The school talks have usually been delivered in mainstream secondary school assemblies and pupil referral units.
- Upon request presentations have also been delivered to staff from care homes and parents of pupils.
- To date we have presented to over 11,000 students with the assistance of the neighbourhood policing teams, police community support officers (PCSOs) and assistant investigators.

Case study: Highfield Academy, Blackpool

- In November 2019, we were approached by Highfield Academy, Blackpool, as they were concerned that several of their pupils were receiving the wrong messages through avenues such as social media.
- A panel of year 11 pupils were identified by staff as those closely connected to concerns.
- On speaking with the students, they were concerned that any talks would not be hard hitting enough to make some of pupils listen.
- VRN funding commissioned the ACE Project to deliver a workshop for pupils.
- The workshops ran over the course of six weeks with years 9, 10 and 11 (ages 13-16).
- The speakers during the workshops were from various backgrounds including lived experience of violent crime, county lines and serious sexual offences.
- As requested by the students, the speakers gave an honest, first-hand, lived experience of how crime had affected them, their life whilst incarcerated and the effects on those close to them, all hard hitting information which was received very well by the students.





Priority 3: Cultural transformation and workforce development

- The LVRN strategy has become recognised and received as a blueprint for “Trauma Informed Lancashire”
- In 2019, Lancashire through the work of the LVRN, has joined the World Health Organization (WHO) Trauma Informed Cities network. Key members of the VRN have presented on behalf of the Lancashire VRN at WHO events in Oslo and Bristol.
- Contributed to discussions held in parliament by making presentations to: The House of Lords on child poverty and its impact, a cross party parliamentary group on the need for trauma informed practice as advocated by the LVRN and a parliamentary committee on children’s mental health issues.
- The LVRN has developed a trauma informed organisational development framework (TIOD) (including a self and peer evaluation toolkit), which aims to cultivate collective, cross-sector learning, in order to support the continuing development of trauma informed services.
- Since launching the TIOD, we have already received numerous requests from different agencies and the LVRN has completed the first trauma informed peer review of HM Probation Service in Lancashire.
- Working in collaboration with Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire schools network, we have delivered ACE-awareness training to professionals, contributed to the development of trauma informed schools and produced trauma informed COVID-19 resources for pupils, parents and teachers returning to the school environment. These products have received national acclaim and have been utilised by areas outside of Lancashire.
- Our VRN education and academic leads have written two guidance documents for schools in relation to appropriate trauma informed responses. Both resources can be accessed on the Lancashire VRN website and via social media.
 - o COVID-19: A trauma informed response for professionals, held on the Lancashire VRN website and shared with all schools in Lancashire by the County Council Children’s Services Executive. Shared with the Home Office VRN network for national distribution.
 - o How to respond appropriately to COVID-19: A curriculum response, guidance document for schools and colleges. Held on the Lancashire VRN website and distributed by Lancashire County Council.

¹ LVRN Strategy: <https://www.lancsvrn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Lancs-VRN-Strategy.pdf>

² Trauma informed COVID-19 resources: https://www.lancsvrn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LVRN-Post-COVID-19-Trauma-Informed-Guidance-for-Schools-FINAL_5.pdf
<https://www.lancsvrn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/LancsVRN-Responding-Appropriately-COVID-19-Curriculum-meet-needs-of-communities.pdf>

Future plans and anticipated impact

- A “Little Book of Violence Prevention” has been written and is currently being edited. A follow up book to the original “Little Book of ACEs” called “The Slightly Bigger Book of ACEs” is currently being edited by colleagues at Lancaster University. The World Health Organization wish to translate these books in this series to allow them to be distributed globally.
- Training package on parental incarceration is about to be rolled out to over 700 schools, probation services, social workers, mental health support workers, police officers, prisons staff and custody suite staff across three authorities within Lancashire. Mia’s Story book and training are to be shared with VRUs across the country.
- Development of the bespoke police trauma informed training product for existing neighbourhood police officers working in Fleetwood and for new recruits at the Police Headquarters. The product is being tweaked based on feedback. Subject to two pilots the training will be rolled out across Lancashire.
- Development of a Children’s Social Care specific product to be piloted at Fleetwood.
- Both the Police and Children’s Social Care bespoke trauma informed training pilots will be evaluated by UCLan to assess the impact .
- A pilot of a multi-agency partnership trauma informed practice product will be trialled on 15th September 2020. Subject to feedback from the pilot session, adaptations will be made and the produce will be rolled out across pan-Lancashire.
- The LVRN has secured an Approved Practitioner on a full-time, fixed-term secondment to assess Lancashire County Council’s current training provision for Children’s Social Care and to add a trauma informed lens and input into existing training. Negotiations are ongoing with Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen to complete a similar exercise and meetings have been scheduled with BwD and Blackpool to examine the bespoke workforce needs of the unitary areas.
- We continue to work closely with Lancashire Constabulary’s Public Protection Unit (PPU) to cast a trauma informed and vulnerability focus over existing police training.
- In response to the trauma informed resources developed Oxford University led research project “Excluded Lives” has asked that we write a series of articles for a journal on the work of the Lancashire VRN to promote trauma informed practice across public services and the third sector.
- Engagement with the third sector and those with lived experience in development of trauma informed practice and resources, including the development of a LVRN youth engagement strategy and the TIOD Framework.

³ Trauma informed COVID-19 resources: https://www.lancsvrn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LVRN-Post-COVID-19-Trauma-Informed-Guidance-for-Schools-FINAL_5.pdf
<https://www.lancsvrn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/LancsVRN-Responding-Appropriately-COVID-19-Curriculum-meet-needs-of-communities.pdf>

⁴ Early Intervention Foundation: <https://www.eif.org.uk/>

Priority 4: Evidence, Evaluation and Data

The aim is to capitalise on the use of evidence, theory, data and evaluation to reduce violence and serious violence within Lancashire.

What progress has been made?

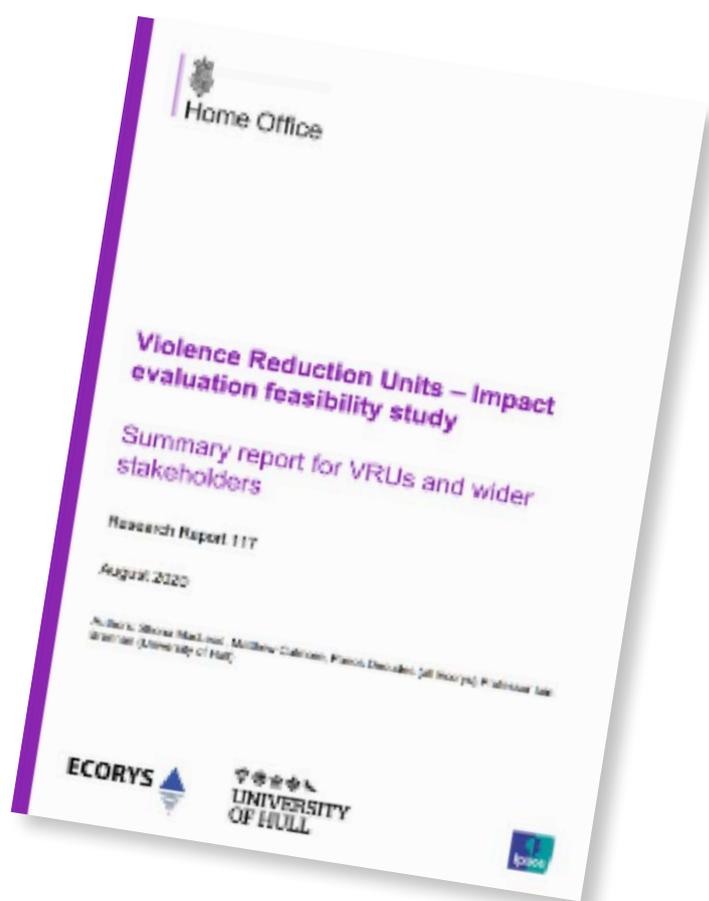
Considering the “best” available evidence

- We have been busy carrying out rapid evidence reviews and collating existing evidence of “what works” in relation to preventing violence to influence our approach and the services that we influence, design, develop and commission.
- A summary of the evidence is documented in Section 7 of the [Lancashire Violence Reduction Network: Strategic Needs Assessment](#).

Harnessing and developing evidence and data through cross-agency collaborations

- Since our establishment in 2019, the LVRN has built collaborative working relationships with a range of institutes and agencies to further develop the available evidence in relation to violence and the social determinants of health. Research collaborations are ongoing with the following partners:
 - o Ipsos, Ecorys, Liverpool John Moore’s University (LJMU), Lancaster University, University of East Anglia, UCLan, Edinburgh Napier University, Bangor University, University of Hull, Crest, Blackpool Better Start, the Faculty of Public Health, the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, NHS Improvement, NHS England, Public Health England and the World Health Organization.
- The LVRN has taken part in the national evaluation of Violence Reduction Units 2019-2020, including both the [process and impact evaluations](#), which were published in August 2020.

- We have also contributed directly to a number of research projects as participants and in terms of providing access to data, including [Crest’s County Lines and Looked After Children Project](#) and the Centre for Child and Family Justice led research on [Breaking the Care-Crime Connection](#).
- We are fortunate in Lancashire to have the Multi-Agency Data Exchange (MADE) data sharing platform. MADE provided a fundamental source of data for our Strategic Needs Assessment, alongside Office of National Statistics (ONS) datasets and Lancashire Police Crime and Intelligence systems.



⁵ MADE was developed by Lancashire County Council to share partners’ data under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Data is collated from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Groups, Drug and Alcohol Services, North West Ambulance Service, Victim Services, Social Care services from Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, Lancashire youth Offending Teams, Lancashire Probation, and other associated service providers. MADE also includes Accident and Emergency data provided to local partners via the local Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group (TIIG) process.

Piloting new programmes and evaluating interventions

- We have commissioned the Public Health Institute, LJMU to evaluate the knife crime assets and six individual projects: (1) Empower the Invisible; (2) Preston United Youth Programme; (3) PEP Enterprises; (4) AFTA Thought; (5) the Lancashire Colleges; and (6) Fleetwood FC Community Trust.
- The LVRN has also commissioned an evaluation of the Caring Dads programme currently running in Blackburn with Darwen.
- UCLan are completing an independent evaluation of the trauma informed training programme, which has been delivered to new police recruits and existing police officers and will be delivered to children's social care staff.
- We have released an invitation to tender for an evaluation of the new Multi-agency, Risk, Reduction, Assessment and Coordination (MARRAC) approach, which has been piloted and is in the process of being operationalised on a wider basis in Lancashire. The independent evaluation will provide important learning to advise and guide further roll out.
- An evaluation of the new Strength Inside and Out programme has been drafted and will be due to commence alongside the roll out of the innovative whole families prison programme (which is due to be delivered for the first time in Lancashire).

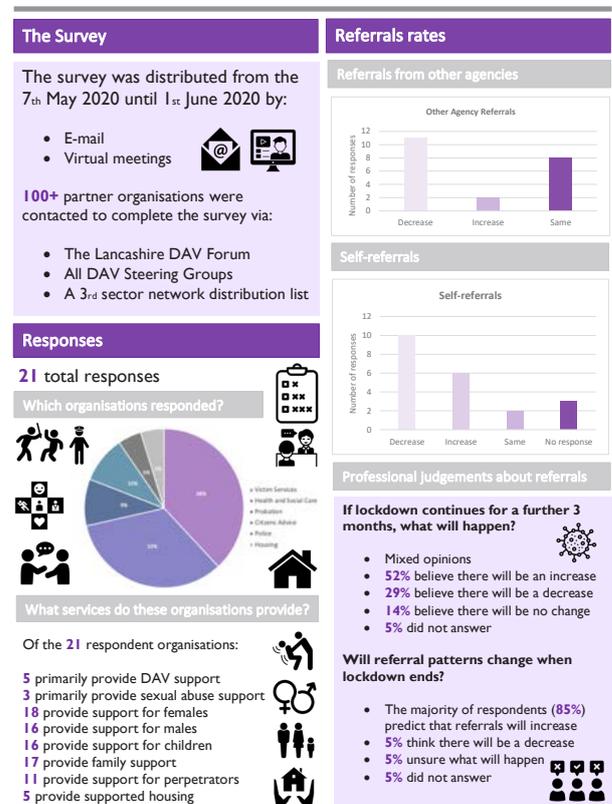
Covid-19: Domestic and sexual abuse and violence survey

- The LVRN produced, disseminated and analysed data from a survey distributed from the 7th May 2020 until 1st June 2020 to explore the impact of Covid-19 on domestic and sexual abuse and violence services.

LVRN Outcomes Framework

- Between June and September 2020, the LVRN developed the first ever Lancashire Outcomes Framework, which brings together in one place, the outcomes focusing on preventing violence and addressing the social determinants of violence.
- The framework was produced in consultation with multi-agency partners through the VRN Partnership Board, core team members and an on-line partner feedback call.

Understanding the Impact of COVID-19: Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Survey Summary Report (June 2020)



- The document will support the LVRN and wider partners to begin to:
 - o identify and develop outcomes
 - o measure impact
 - o develop and improve initiatives
 - o document and share good practice
 - o contribute to the design of new initiatives
 - o provide stronger cases when applying for funding
 - o enable us to assess the potential effectiveness of investments

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network Outcomes Framework



Our work streams

Parenting

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network has been supporting a number of parenting approaches to be developed and implemented in Lancashire.

Caring Dads

Caring Dads Safer Children (CDSC) is a parenting programme for fathers where there are domestic violence concerns. This group-work programme aims to motivate change in men's behaviour by focusing on their roles as fathers.

Caring Dads: Outcomes

CDSC has been evaluated by the NSPCC but Lancashire were not part of the evaluation. The Centre for Research on Children and Families, at the University of East Anglia will be conducting an evaluation for the Caring Dads programme running in Blackburn with Darwen (final report due July 2021), which has not been evaluated since it was first run in Lancashire in 2016. We anticipate similar outcomes from the NSPCC evaluation, such as:

- Fewer incidents of domestic abuse post-programme
- Potential risks to children to be reduced as fathers find parenting less stressful and interact better with their children after they attend the programmes
- Sustained improvements in the fathers' behaviour and increased feelings of safety and wellbeing within their families
- Improvement in children's circumstances as shown in cross-agency data.



Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC)

We have also partnered with the EPEC Scaling Programme to bring this approach to Lancashire. As an EPEC Hub we have identified (through our Strategic Needs Assessment) local, socially disadvantaged communities where we will be offering EPEC parenting courses. EPEC combines local professional parenting expertise with a parent-led approach to build community resilience.

EPEC: Outcomes

Positive outcomes can include preventing crime, violence and antisocial behaviour and improved child behaviour (EIF Guidebook, 2017). Due to the pandemic, the difficult decision was taken to pause the programme in March 2020. The project delivery plan is aiming to commence from January 2021 and the Being a Parent (BAP) courses from April 2021

Awareness raising and prevention

The update for this work stream is covered under 'Priority 1: Prevention' of this document. In addition, the LVRN is contributing to the organisation of a symposium on awareness raising and prevention, which is titled a 'Community Approach to Criminal Justice'.

The LVRN also supported Lancashire Constabulary who commissioned Planning Express to deliver and analyse a survey based on the perceptions of 714 children and young people (aged 11-17 years old) about their ideas of how to raise awareness and prevent knife crime. Further youth engagement work has been co-commissioned with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), which will engage over 2000 young people across the County.

A community conversation event took place in Burnley led by Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) with the VRN and Lancashire Constabulary. Over 100 local residents and organisations were represented at the event and a local action group has been established to ensure that issues raised and initiatives discussed during the conversation lead to positive change in the community.

A further conversation had been planned for Skelmersdale, but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 situation.



Multi-agency violence reduction

The aims of the MARAC review programme were to:

- Understand the demands across Lancashire with regards to high risk domestic abuse, the current processes surrounding the management of it and applying an effective and efficient model of servicing this area of work.
- Instigate a whole system approach.
- Promote a holistic family safeguarding response.
- Undertake a bespoke response based on obtaining a clear understanding of individual's needs and tailoring the response according to need.
- Work in accordance with a public health approach to reducing violence, an approach which is trauma informed and focuses on understanding root cause and underlying issues.

- Ensure that the response is based on learning, continuous improvement and evaluation of impact.

An initial pilot of the proposed approach has been completed in 2019 with further work continuing in the Preston area to improve learning and develop the full model for roll out across Lancashire.

COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on this work, resulting in the co-located team moving on-line and some team members being re-deployed to support COVID-19 activity.

The review, pilot and preliminary roll out is going to be evaluated and the evaluation will contribute key learning into the potential development of the model.

Emergency department navigators

The ED navigators scheme is based within Blackpool Victoria Hospital's emergency department and helps people to access support services.

Blackpool was selected as the initial site from the pan-Lancashire multi-agency 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 (because of data identified in our LVRN Needs Assessment) who present at hospital with violence-related injuries.

To date, over 200 people have been engaged by the service with the majority of these receiving a single session of support. The pilot phase has enabled us to clarify the average age of participants who engage

with the navigators (27 years old). Positive comments have been received from both staff and patients who have engaged with the service.



Lancashire Divert programme

Custody Suites

The Lancashire VRN DIVERT lead has negotiated the pathway for a phased return to custody and safe working practices following COVID-19 restrictions, with the first day of return in Blackpool Custody suite on 11th September 2020. Preston have also advised that the suites are accessible subject to the wearing of full PPE. This is being considered in light of safe working practices and the potential barriers to therapeutic engagement by the wearing of such equipment.

Lancashire Youth Offending Teams

Ongoing dialogue with the Lancashire YOTs around help our coaches can provide to clients post bail, pre-charge who currently are not supported in the system.

Further work has commenced across all three YOTS transitioning young people aged 17 years completing a youth offending order to try and avert re-offending and entry in the adult criminal justice system.

Lancashire Children's Service (care leavers)

Further dialogue with the Care Leavers project manager and establishing connections between allied services and information sharing.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

Our Blackpool coach has established herself as a valuable asset to the ED navigator team. She's become a trusted pathway for individuals presenting at ED with issues at the high end of complexity and she's thrived on the challenge, developing networks and learning so she's able to provide support of the highest quality. She is now working with two other coaches from AFC Fylde and Preston North End in transitioning referrals she's received from Blackpool into support from coaches in the client's local area.

DWP-Pilot project

DIVERT Lancashire have been approached by Active Lancashire who have been invited by the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) to form a consortium of third sector partners to collaborate around support for vulnerable young people in receipt of benefits.

DIVERT is involved in conversations with the DWP Safeguarding Lead for Lancashire/South Cumbria regarding our work. The DWP Safeguarding Lead has offered to facilitate a post-lockdown benefits workshop for our custody intervention coaches (CICs), to familiarise them with the benefits system and navigating it.

Preston Community Safety Partnership

Following meetings in Preston with the CSP Manager and members of the 3rd sector network including Preston United Youth Development Programme, a positive mentoring programme aimed at young people of BAME background has been developed. The initial contact has been positive with one young person being considered for referral who is at risk of OCG exploitation.

Training

Lancashire CICs have undertaken a range of training to upskill the workforce, including: domestic abuse; Adult Safeguarding Level 1; Adult Safeguarding Level 2; information governance; adverse childhood experiences and working from a trauma informed perspective; display equipment; managing stress; risk assessment; GDPR essentials; drug & alcohol awareness; corona awareness and E-CINS.

Prisoners and prisoners' families

It is widely recognised that a parent going to prison is a traumatic event for their children. It can also be challenging when a family member leaves custody as everyone in the family needs to make adjustments. Our work with prisoners and their families aims to help to support prisoners and their children through both transitions.

Update / progress

Trauma and attachment insecurity are significant issues affecting prisoners and their families. These factors influence emotional regulation and the quality of interpersonal relationships. In order to mitigate the impact of incarceration on prisoners and their families, we plan to develop and implement:

- A therapeutic programme to a cohort of prisoners within Lancaster Farms, Kirkham and Preston prisons.
- Family support to understand impact of trauma, before and as a consequence of prison sentence on parent and child.
- A notification system to Lancashire schools for incarceration of a parent.
- Training and support materials for agencies supporting parents and children affected by this issue.

Training package and resources

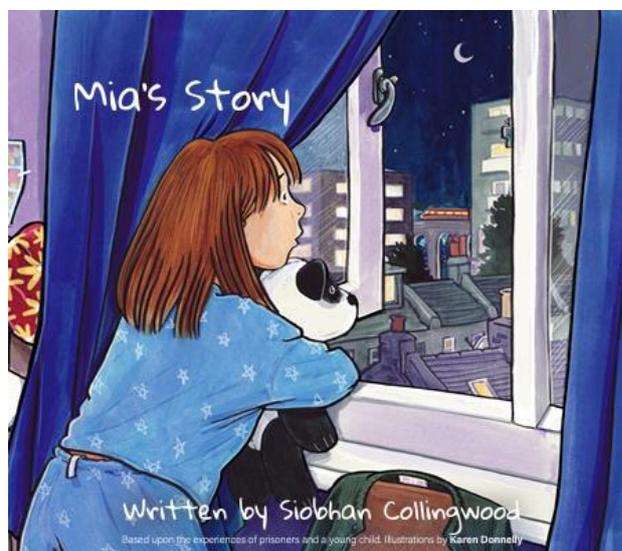
The training package and implementation have been agreed and suitable cohorts of course participants identified. Information leaflets have been written in collaboration with prisoners from Haverigg Prison and young adults. These are now available on the Lancashire VRN website. Mia's Story, a picture book for young children, has been written; merging the testimony of a young girl who lived through the incarceration of her father and his release between the ages of 6 and 10 years old. The book includes guidance for those supporting young children and together with the leaflets will form the basis of training which has been agreed for delivery to every school in Lancashire with leaflets and copies of the book freely available to all schools. It is anticipated that this training will be accessed by all schools pan-Lancashire (over 700) through established cross-sector networks. When

Strength Inside and Out

The Lancashire VRN has commissioned a trauma-informed therapeutic family programme designed to help manage emotions (e.g. stress, fear and anger) and build skills in conflict resolution and problem solving. The therapeutic programme is based on evidence-based techniques, such as dialectical behavioural therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy and mindfulness. The cutting-edge work presents an opportunity to develop much-needed competencies to navigate prisoners' roles as parents and ameliorate the risk of inflicting similar experiences on their own children.

The programme of work should have commenced in Lancaster Farms in March 2020. A cohort of volunteers had been recruited following consultation and focus groups from inmates. Due to COVID-19 this has not been possible. Negotiations are ongoing to select a new cohort and confirm a date to start the programme now that visits are back being scheduled within HMP.

actioned, the sharing of information will mean that notifications ensure appropriate support can be offered, in line with the model already established by Operation Encompass





Training on parental incarceration and trauma informed practices has already been delivered to 97 attendees at a networking event in Hyndburn. Participants were very receptive to key messages and enthusiastic about involvement across agencies in the Lancs VRN prisons project.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive

“I will promote trauma informed work in the workplace and encourage team members to use their skills to address ACEs.”

“I will work with our families from an earlier stage.”

“I will build trust to help children open up more.”

“I will improve my multi-agency working practice



Strength Inside and Out

Previous graduates of a sister-programme of Strength Inside and Out reported a much greater degree of self-control and reduction in stress and violent outbursts. The evidence base around the focus of this type of programme demonstrates an improved wellbeing for family members and a reduction in risk of children modelling parent behaviours.

A key indicator of childhood trauma is growing up in a violent household where parental conflict and mental ill health is a common occurrence. Successful completion of this course should improve the quality of interpersonal relationships and, where relevant, improve

the quality of the individual's ability to parent. Attendees should report reduced instances of emotional dysregulation and reduced contact with criminal justice and statutory services.

An evaluation of this programme following three planned cohorts at HMP Lancaster Farms, Preston and Kirkham will provide further insights into outcomes and learning about whether and how this course should be up scaled or mainstreamed by potential commissioners.

Further impact and outcomes

The estimated cohort of children in Lancashire affected by this issue per annum is 6,900 children, therefore the training of all schools and educational providers will ensure that these children and their family members will have access to appropriate support by a trained adult within their school, from the academic year 2020-21 onwards.

Similar approaches described in the CREST report showed that children of families supported in this manner showed the following positive outcomes:

- 70% of participants with problematic attendance records showed improvements in attendance.
- 82% with behavioural issues had better behavioural records.
- 82% showed improved engagement in learning levels.
- 73% improvement in parental engagement in children's learning.

Feedback from head teachers within Lancashire suggests that there is an appetite for closer working links with Criminal Justice partners, including developing a system for notification of when a parent is in custody.

“A call to the school to notify them of the family's circumstances could make the difference in helping the child feel supported, intervening early before the associated issues take hold, and understanding and being aware of changes in behaviour”.

This links to the trauma informed approach that schools are developing, such a notification system would allow for the school to be responsive to the child's presentation and provide the relevant support and address previous concerns highlighted in research.

‘In the absence of any notification to the school (either by a third party or by a family member), schools are reliant on the child speaking to a teacher, or teachers noticing when problems start to emerge, such as behavioural issues or regular absences from school due to prison visits. The response of schools to children of prisoners varies widely, and schools often report a lack of appropriate training on how to identify and support children of prisoners and their needs. When access to support does exist, it is often piecemeal and dependent on the commitment, interest and past experiences of the school and its staff’ (Crest).

Under this strand we are determined to put the child at the centre, recognising the stigma associated with parental incarceration, the intention is to develop a partnership approach between HMPPs and the Department of Education which enhances working links, improves the experience of children and families and the resettlement of prisoners, and gives us the opportunity to develop other initiatives such as homework clubs, family/school days inside the prison as just two examples.

Exploitation and family support

Blackpool

The aim of this work stream is to provide outreach to be able to engage children and young people in communities across Blackpool and explore how they can be supported to divert from anti-social behaviour, escalating violent behaviour toward each other and community members, causing damage to property, and seek to protect them from the risk of exploitation from criminals (including CSE).

Sessional workers who are experienced in working with children and young people who do not generally engage in services by being persistent in their approach will be provided with detached outreach four times a week for three-hour periods. The outreach workers will look to engage young people in activities run from the nearest locality - three main hubs in Blackpool which already engage with youth activity are Boys and Girls Club (Central), The Boathouse (South) and The Magic Club (North) – with the structured activities being delivered by existing third sector youth providers in a tailored way to keep the young people engaged.

Blackburn

Funded to provide two additional posts in the Engage Team. The two additional posts made available to the Engage Team have had a significant positive impact on the ability of the team to respond to the increased workload generated from widening the team's remit to include child criminal exploitation, whilst continuing to ensure ongoing interventions and support to children at risk of sexual exploitation and who go missing from home. Alongside the increased case numbers the

team has seen, there has been a need to continue to learn about child criminal exploitation and how this is best responded to, and also cascaded out to key agencies and wider service areas.

The Engage team has seen an increase in child criminal exploitation referrals, following on from the team's remit widening in early December 2019. It is anticipated that the referral rates will rise even further over the next few months as professionals, parents and young people's awareness of CCE increases, alongside the reopening of schools and wider services within the borough following the easing of lockdown restrictions.

The two additional posts that have been secured have enabled these areas of work to continue and have enhanced the local offer around contextual safeguarding. Within recent audits exercise in children services, a selection of the Engage Team cases were also audited, all of which demonstrated the positive impact on both the intervention and multi-agency working leading to positive outcomes.

Commissioned services and additional funding

The LVRN has been responsible for administering two grant funds that have been made available to third sector and not-for-profit organisations in Lancashire.

In 2019-20 over £180,000 from the Knife Crime and Police Surge Grant from the Home Office was made available for third sector organisations to bid in with proposed programmes that addressed the issues of knife crime in relation to young people.

Eleven organisations were successful with a range of programmes covering schools, colleges and community-based interventions. As funding was allocated in late November 2019, most of the organisations were starting delivery in early 2020 and so have been impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown and closure of schools and colleges.

The LVRN has continued to monitor the progress of all the organisations through two surveys, one undertaken in April 2020 and a further survey in July 2020 following announcement of some easing of the lockdown measures.

Despite the restrictions the eleven organisations have undertaken the following work:

- Developed resources for peer-led community-based programmes

- Delivered 30 sessions in schools
- Delivered 4 sessions to young people involved with the youth offending team;
- Delivered 2-3 sessions a week throughout lockdown to young people in Preston
- Delivered 5 community-based sessions
- Encouraged young people to surrender knives (1 project received 6 knives from young people)
- Engaged with just under 4,200 young people.

“I decided to go into school three days a week, even though my mates aren’t, because you said I can be anything I want to be, but I have to work hard”

“You came back to see us. Everyone else just calls my dad to ask if I’m OK, but you actually came to see me”

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**



Vulnerable children's charities – impact of COVID-19

In July 2020 the Home Office announced a grant fund for organisations in the 18 VRU areas working with vulnerable children at risk of serious violence. This fund was to support organisations who had experienced either a reduction in income, an increase in demand or sustained additional costs to change the way programmes are delivered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eleven charities were successful in their applications, three were organisations that had received funding from the knife crime grant the other eight were new organisations for the LVRN to work with. Evaluation of the applications was undertaken jointly with the Home Office and a total of just over £98,000 has been allocated.

These organisations anticipate that jointly they will engage with just over 4,500 young people in the period up to the end of the grant term at 31st December 2020.

Further funding opportunities

The VRN have assisted Blackpool Football Club in a successful bid to secure a Youth Endowment Fund grant and are currently working with the OPCC and other partners to secure funding to support the development of domestic abuse perpetrator programmes across Lancashire.

Joint working, information sharing and a whole systems approach

Cross-sector networks

LVRN members have led the creation of multi-agency strong networks of training and support, to facilitate better outcomes for children and young people in the areas of mental health and safeguarding. Four networks created in three regions in Lancashire with between 70-150 members in each.

Operation Encompass

We have introduced Operation Encompass, meaning that schools and police colleagues work together with support agencies quickly and effectively to help over 36,000 children affected by domestic abuse per year in Lancashire.

The joint police-education project pan-Lancashire has improved information sharing between agencies and ensured timely and effective support for vulnerable children, young people and their families.

We have now established an accurate and regularly updated database of over 700 schools pan-Lancashire across each MASH in the three Local Authority areas. Training has been delivered across 14 training sessions pan-Lancashire to over 700 schools, with overwhelmingly positive feedback, covering - Encompass, understanding domestic abuse and the impact of ACEs on children and young people and how to be trauma informed in meeting their needs.

“Our Designated Safeguarding Leads] were incredibly inspired by your engaging delivery on ACES and Encompass.”

(Jeremy Manino, Blackpool Authority MASH)

In order to improve confidence and quality of response to notifications, an excellent toolkit of materials was produced through a commissioned service. The toolkit gives advice and support for all pan-Lancashire schools, with materials on a variety of ACE related issues, including a checklist of what to do on receipt of a notification, how to safety plan with children and young people and materials to support trauma informed practice.

In order to improve officer compliance with completing Encompass referrals data harvesting has been improved to a district and team level with compliance across areas and teams within each area

being addressed by senior officers. This has seen data move from an initial rate of 33% compliance to currently around 60%. We continue to aspire to increase the compliance rate of notifications.

2955 notifications were sent to Lancashire schools in April 2020, if this level were to remain constant, 35,000 notifications per year could be expected, however numbers are increasing monthly as compliance figures improve.

Multi-agency training on exploitation

Training was delivered through the cross-sector networks to 80 multi-agency representatives from Lancaster, Morecambe and Central Lancashire areas.

Feedback from attendees was very positive, see specific comments below:

“I will feedback to locality school nurses and health visitors to link in with future multi-agency events.”

“Useful day enjoyed sharing ideas with other professionals.”

“Delivery on exploitation from the police was excellent and thought provoking. Informative and thought provoking today. Although there is, a lot to do it is great to feel that we have made a start on something useful and important.”

“Well-structured day, I thought the action planning was beneficial and will hopefully directly affect.”

Communications review

The last 12 months have seen the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network establish a communications approach built around three areas of work:

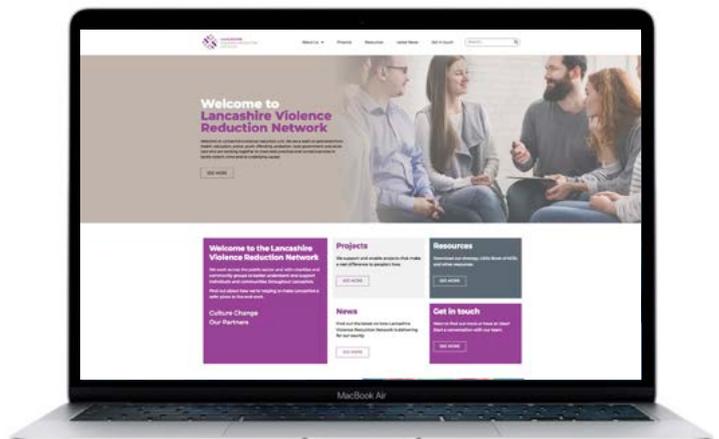
Area	Partners	Members of the public
Reach	Keeping partner organisations informed of VRN activity, news and opportunities.	Publicising key projects and sharing violence prevention messages across relevant audiences.
Engage and influence	Sharing insight through thought leadership papers, research and contributing to professional conversations.	Contribute to increasing confidence in policing and in partner organisations by sharing project insights and campaign messages.
Operational	Support operational surge activity with effective communications.	Support operational surge activity with effective communications.

- 673 unique users have visited the website
- 90% of these have been in the UK, 10% rest of world
- 3,577 views of Lancs VRN website pages
- 964 views of our resources page
- 713 followers on Twitter with an average 19,800 impressions a month

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network partner newsletter - Launched in December 2019 this has become a 6-weekly update for partners that has been received very positive feedback and has led to a number of additional partners requesting copies.

@LancsVRN Twitter account - Our Twitter account facilitates engagement and networking with others working to prevent violence. We use the account not only to share information with partners but also to build relationships with current and potential future collaborators.

Website launch - Our LancsVRN.co.uk website was launched in June and has developed as a resource hub for partners with significant resources relating to COVID-19, our trauma-informed self and peer evaluation toolkit, resources for prisoners' families, and acting as the partner hub for the multi-agency pan-Lancashire domestic abuse campaign.





Domestic abuse campaign - We contributed to a multi-agency pan-Lancashire domestic abuse campaign brought about through the Lancashire Resilience Forum communications sub-group as a result of the pandemic. This joint working has established a framework for future multi-agency campaigns.

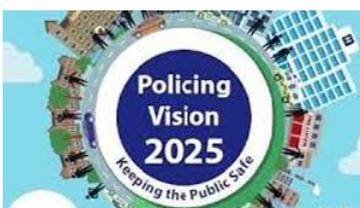
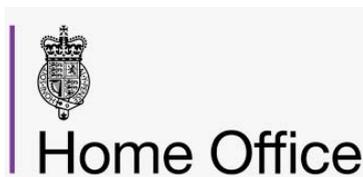
Knife crime campaign - Developed directly from a market research exercise our knife crime social media campaign takes inspiration from young people's real-life experiences and shows the consequences of knife crime and how making positive decisions can steer away from it. The campaign spans August-September and will be followed with a schools' education pack.



The year ahead opens up opportunities to provide the trauma-informed toolkit as an interactive, online evaluation tool for partners, develop the 'believe you can' knife crime campaign concept into a wider youth engagement brand, launch Mia's Story and training for professionals to support families with a parent in prison, create engagement activity around the knife angel visit planned for Blackburn Cathedral in autumn 2021, and create excitement around the 4 nations conference planned for February 2021.

National and international engagement

- Lancashire VRN have been asked by the Home Office Serious Violence Unit to lead trauma informed practice for England and Wales.
- Development of the four nation's conference in February 2021 on behalf of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The conference is titled, The challenge and cultural shift required for mainstreaming public health approaches across policing and violence prevention in the UK beyond 2025 and we have secured co-sponsorship from the Home Office, NPCC and the World Health Organization. Four high profile speakers are already confirmed: Sir Harry Burns, Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Home Secretary Priti Patel and Policing Minister Kit Malthouse.
- Members of the LVRN have been asked to sit on the NHS England National Clinical Advisory Group for Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation and have been awarded honorary contracts with NHS England and Public Health England to facilitate joint working and data sharing.
- Working with NHS England Safeguarding team the LVRN are developing a blueprint for the VRN/ policing role within the development of Sustainable Transformation Programmes and Integrated Care Systems. This work will assess how policing can have a voice in health commissioning and how the health system should work closer at a strategic and place-based level with policing partners.
- We are developing a strong relationships with the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association (GLEPHA) and LVRN members being asked to assist with their international strategies.



2021/22: Strategic plan for 2021 and beyond

As we enter the second half of the financial year, the LVRN team are looking forward optimistically to the challenges for the rest of this year and hopefully, some certainty about funding over forthcoming years.

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network partner newsletter

- Launched in December 2019 this has become a 6-weekly update for partners that has been received very positive feedback and has led to a number of additional partners requesting copies.

Responding to the new serious violence duty

- The new duty on Community Safety Partnerships and specified partners is expected to come into force by the end of the year.
- The LVRN is working with CSPs to develop local strategies and action plans to respond to the duty.

Work force development and cultural change

- Embed trauma informed training within all relevant courses across Lancashire Constabulary;
- The joint vision for a Trauma Informed Lancashire will be developed and delivered through multi-agency “How to” sessions’ and the development of a community of practice;
- Trauma responsive culture change plan to be drawn up across the community of practice via the peer reviews being undertaken;
- Independent evaluation of the training sessions to be completed and learning embedded;
- Supervision model to be developed which underpins the wider trauma informed workforce development plans;
- Mainstreaming the trauma informed programme across the partnership.

Multi-agency risk reduction, coordination and assessment approach (MARRAC)

- Full implementation of the revised multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) model;
- Scrutiny of new process overseen by domestic abuse strategic group (to be formed to adhere to statutory requirement under new Domestic Abuse Bill);
- Evaluation to be commenced in 2020 (final report date to be confirmed).

Exploitation

- Formal role in pan-Lancashire exploitation forum to be devised and agreed;
- Analytical support evidencing underlying social determinants of relevance to exploitation;
- Serious and organised crime prevention strategy to be fully embedded across VRN network;
- Professional resource to be produced and disseminated to support recognition and responses to exploitation;
- Commissioning of relevant services to support.

Emergency department navigators

- Navigator roll to be evaluated at Blackpool Victoria Hospital;
- Consideration for formal roll out of Navigator scheme across key Emergency Departments in Lancashire (Blackburn and Preston).

Parenting programmes

- Empowering Parents Empowering Communities programme to be trialled in Lancashire and learning embedded.
- Evaluation of the Caring Dads programme to be completed by July 2021 and recommendations to be rolled out.

Divert programme

- Fully embed programme in custody suites;
- Develop youth offending team leavers offer for 17+ age group;
- Develop programme of work to lead to creation of Youth Divert offer;
- Once 2021/22 funding is secured fund the programme and further develop the Divert prevention offer;
- Evaluation of Divert Lancashire to be commissioned.

Prisoners and prisoners' families programme

- Commence Strength Inside and Out therapeutic programme in HMP Lancaster Farms;
- Evaluate Strength Inside and Out programme and embed learning;
- Commence schools network training using LVRN produced resources including Mia's Story and a series of leaflets for secondary school aged children, to educate school staff about how to support children who experience parental incarceration;
- Develop network of schools willing to work closer with relevant HMP establishments across Lancashire to strengthen family ties and involve incarcerated parents in children's education;

- Establish an information sharing protocol and system for informing schools when a parent goes into custody, building on existing information sharing arrangements (i.e. Operation Encompass notifications).

Surge activity

- Develop the new role of VRN sergeants
- Focus surge activity on the learning from activity around what works in 2019/20.

Throughout the past 18 months, the LVRN has tried to respond supportively to the challenges faced by the agencies and communities involved with the network. Our overall aim going forward is to focus in the coming years on whole systems change across the partnership. This systems change is required to maximise on available resources, achieve joint outcomes and to enable us all to contribute to the sustainability of the work and priorities of our joint senior leadership governance forums – Integrated Care System, Community Safety Partnership Board and Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Executive.

Achieving our vision for every person living or working in Lancashire to feel and be safe from violence and violent crime, will take all of us; that means working together with communities to change social attitudes and cultural norms to violence and those who become involved in violence.



LANCASHIRE
VIOLENCE REDUCTION
NETWORK

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