

West Yorkshire Response Strategy Refresh 2024

Serious Violence: West Yorkshire Strategy for Change

Delivered by



**West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority**

**Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire**

Foreword

The work of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is intrinsically linked to the delivery of my [Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire](#) and plays a crucial role.

This is why the VRP Response Strategy Refresh 2024 is such an important tool, as it outlines the framework for preventing and reducing serious violence, putting our partnership approach in motion.

Informed by the evidence base of the VRP Needs Assessment, it offers a comprehensive understanding of the issues, local needs and how we will collectively respond to them.

As you will see, this document identifies a number of key objectives and priorities, setting out, how they will be achieved. Each chime closely with my overall goal as Mayor of West Yorkshire.

We are in a stronger position than ever to provide a long-term vision to address serious violence. It means that the interventions which we support across our communities can be planned over an extended period, becoming more established and engrained in our neighbourhoods.

You'll read how the 'whole family' and 'trauma informed' approach is fundamental to everything we do, and this has to be embedded and interwoven throughout our multi-agency response.

We cannot make wholesale change in isolation, and it is vital that we use our combined strength to drive change.

For instance, one of the most notable points within this latest iteration of the Response Strategy is the nationwide introduction of the Serious Violence Duty.

If we get this right here in West Yorkshire, it could be a defining moment in terms of both the effectiveness and potency of our partnership.

The Duty means services must work together to a greater extent, sharing key information, intelligence, knowledge, and data, whilst capturing the views of local people.

This is our opportunity to cement that relationship between 'people and power,' operating in unison to change cultures and behaviours, which will ultimately save lives.

By jointly agreeing our response and bolstering our partnership links, we can be more informed in tackling the root causes of serious violence.

In adopting this strategy and embracing its principles, it will undoubtedly lead to lasting change, ensuring our county remains safe, just, and inclusive.

Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin



Bradford

The effects of violence extend far beyond the immediate victims and perpetrators. It can damage families, disrupt communities, and create a climate of fear and insecurity in neighbourhoods. Whether this is violence in the home or in the community, it is a violation of basic human rights and dignity. Witnessing or experiencing violence damages children and violence will often breed more violence. This may be immediate or much later – often carried out by those that have been victims of violence themselves and who carry the trauma and resentment of their own damaging experiences.

Responding to violence is an essential component of neighbourhood renewal and should involve the full partnership spectrum including educating and supporting children throughout their school journey.

Councillor Abdul Jabar, Chair of Safer Bradford

Calderdale

Calderdale's Community Safety Partnership welcomes and supports the Response Strategy to Serious Violence across West Yorkshire. The comprehensive plan is crucial for addressing the root causes of violence in our communities, and it represents a significant step forward in ensuring safety of our residents.

The approach set out will add value to the work of the Community Safety Partnership in delivering better outcomes for communities. It aims to reduce serious violence with robust enforcement, whilst also taking into account influential factors as to why people commit serious violence in the first instance. Ensuring that, we are able as a partnership to respond with preventative measures in the hope of reducing serious violence occurrences.

Councillor Jenny Lynn, Calderdale Community Safety Partnership Chair

Kirklees

As Chair of the Kirklees Communities Board and on behalf of all our partners, I welcome the West Yorkshire Response Strategy to tackling violence in West Yorkshire and Kirklees. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their home and community and in Kirklees we are committed to working in partnership with the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership to find ways to reduce violence alongside our neighbouring authorities. Unfortunately, some of our communities have experienced the devastating impact of violent crime which is why this work is so important. There is no simple solution to resolving violent crime, but by working together with our partners and local communities to implement this strategy we can make a difference to the lives of local people and future generations.

Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz, Chair of Kirklees Communities Board

Leeds

Serious violence is a national problem, and communities across Leeds have been touched by its devastating effects. The violence affecting our communities has many forms, including the drastic and life changing effects of knife crime, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. These are just some of the symptoms affecting young people and communities in Leeds, and we must acknowledge there are many forms of community harm which remain hidden.

Tackling violence and exploitation are, and have historically been, a key focus for Leeds City Council because of the harm this activity causes. The Community Safety Partnership, Safer Leeds and our partners across the city are working hard to address the root causes of the issues, but we know there is more to do and that is our priority as we strive to make Leeds a safer place. We are especially proud to work in collaboration with our voluntary and community sector and West Yorkshire Combined Authority, valuing the strong relationships we have built.

The implementation of this strategy and its vision clearly sets out our priorities to improve the safety in our communities and will be underpinned by a robust action plan that will secure real change for our residents.

Councillor Debra Coupar, Deputy Leader, and Executive Member for Resources

Wakefield

Wakefield Safer Together Partnership (CSP) hopes the Serious Violence Strategy provides a road map for community safety over the coming years. Wakefield has never been a safer place to live, with much progress already having been made in reducing crime, and protecting those in our communities who are vulnerable. But there is still more we can do.

The Wakefield Safer Together Partnership, along with partners, colleagues and stakeholders are committed to delivering on the strategy, which will help to deliver a safer and more confident district, in which we can all live, work and enjoy.

Councillor Maureen Cummings, Chair of Wakefield Safer Together Partnership



The VRP Response Strategy Refresh 2024 has a fundamental role in addressing serious violence across West Yorkshire, helping us to place the right resources in the right places at the right times. Using insights and evidence from our 'Strategic Needs Assessment' and review of 'Influential Factors', we can better guide our partners and communities through the challenges faced.

It is this deeper understanding and recognition of the issues, that has seen us transform from a 'Violence Reduction Unit' into a 'Violence Reduction Partnership'. This is more significant than purely a change in name, as it represents a pivotal moment in our approach to respond to serious violence. It cements our collaborative status and acknowledges the national introduction of the Serious Violence Duty, placing legal requirements on key local agencies.

As you will see, this refreshed document sets out how we can work together to identify the issues, using our collective strength to arrive at even stronger outcomes. We know that we remain in a period of economic uncertainty, with many different factors affecting the levels of serious violence across the county. We also know that the issues will not simply go away, and we cannot arrest our way out of the problems.

The impacts of serious violence have implications for every aspect of our lives, cutting across critical strands of infrastructure, public services, and our communities. The Violence Reduction Partnership is therefore uniquely positioned to seek and orchestrate the solutions, but this cannot be achieved in isolation.

Sustainability has to be the golden thread that runs throughout our future plans, and it is so crucial that we act as one, in a co-ordinated and considered manner.

Director of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership

Detective Chief Superintendent, Lee Berry



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Introduction

This Strategy provides a West Yorkshire framework for preventing and reducing serious violence. Informed by an evidence base, the strategy sets out our understanding of serious violence, local needs and how we will respond to this using a trauma informed approach.

A refresh of our previous annual Serious Violence Response Strategy, this Strategy brings together a more evidenced based, developed, integrated partnership understanding and vision of tackling serious violence. The Response Strategy therefore provides the framework for the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), Serious Violence Duty and that for wider West Yorkshire partners.

What is serious violence?

Definition

The annual Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and Influential Factors Evidence Synthesis (*link to documents to be included once finalised*) provides a detailed understanding of serious violence in West Yorkshire. We define serious violence as:

“Violence and serious violence include specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.”

The specific crime types included in West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls, organised crime, sexual exploitation, and domestic abuse.

The definition will focus on geographic areas of criminality and specific groups where serious violence, or its threat or impact, is evident; this is children, young adults, women and girls, public places, the night time economy, gangs, and organised crime groups.

Why serious violence

Context

West Yorkshire has a population of 2.35m of which 23% are under 18. A county that consists of 5 metropolitan boroughs; Calderdale, Kirklees and the Cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield, West Yorkshire is a diverse region, with people from a range of ethnicities, lifestyles, and backgrounds, bringing great cultural diversity.

Our Influential Factors for Serious Violence Evidence Synthesis outline the broad social and economic circumstances that together determine the quality of living, health, wellbeing, and the safety of the population. Deprivation and inequalities around these determinants show strong correlations to adversity and trauma and the root causes of serious violence. West Yorkshire has a significant number of areas experiencing disadvantage and this has been growing in recent years.

Reducing inequalities cannot be achieved unless all organisations work together to identify and address these root causes and differences in communities.

Local evidence base

Information exchange, research, and production of annual a West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment, five district profiles and an Influential Factors for Serious Violence evidence review continue to develop our knowledge and understanding of serious violence. We are starting to see some positive outcomes in some crime types and communities from our approach and focus since the first establishment of our Serious Violence Strategy in 2019.

We are not however complacent. In West Yorkshire over the last year serious violence increased by 13% compared with the previous 12 months, but numbers remained lower than pre-pandemic levels. Numbers of serious violence and firearms offences were adversely impacted by the trend in use of gel guns in June 2023. There was a concerning trend that violence against children increased at a greater rate than violence against adults. Knife crime overall had reduced both on the previous year and pre-pandemic numbers, except where the victim was a child.

There have been more homicide offences recorded in the last year, and numbers of domestic homicides have been increasing over the past 3 years. While knife crime overall has reduced, numbers of the most serious violence offences involving a knife have increased - knife-enabled homicides and attempted murder offences were higher than the previous year and pre-pandemic levels. Overall, 27 people sadly lost their lives to violence in West Yorkshire. In purely monetary terms, the cost of violence in West Yorkshire was just under £1.3 billion.

Violence Reduction Partnership

Serious violence has been identified as a priority across West Yorkshire for a number of years. The national Serious Violence Strategy published in 2018 allocated funding to 18 areas, now 20 areas most affected by serious violence. In 2019 securing this Home Office funding support, we established the West Yorkshire VRP and gained further resources to focus on tackling serious violence.

The VRP over the last five years has been a catalyst for partners to come together to develop our understanding of serious violence and test approaches to respond to the underlying causes, put in place protective factors to reduce incidents and respond where necessary through enforcement. Through VRP commissioning in 2022/23 we worked with organisations providing 74 interventions and supporting 518 young people aged over 25 years and 30,216 children and young adults 24 years and under. We have also trained 252 professionals to support the work. Appendix 1 provides a fuller overview of the VRP funded and wider partner work to tackle serious violence.

In addition to local evaluations undertaken in West Yorkshire to understand 'what works' in the context of reducing serious violence, the Home Office appointed Ecorys to undertake a National evaluation of Violence Reduction Activity, the results from the recently published 2022/23 evaluation can be found [here](#).

Serious Violence Duty

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a new Serious Violence Duty as well as amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Duty requires services¹ to work together to share data, intelligence, knowledge, and the views of communities to develop an assessment of the root causes of serious violence as well as impact. In response specified partners are required to develop and implement a Serious Violence Strategy. We have grasped this opportunity to work together to prevent and stop violence through jointly planning the response to the Duty, reviewing our partnership arrangements to enable synergy and effective partnership working at Place and West Yorkshire regional level and further developing our needs assessments and consultation. This Strategy responds to the requirements of the Duty.

Cross cutting support

The causes and communities affected by serious violence are far reaching and therefore features as a priority across other service and partnership strategies in West Yorkshire. The landscape to tackling the causes as well as impact of serious violence is complex and addressing trauma, adversity and the root causes is a cross agency response. The VRP, partners and this strategy will strongly align and connect to the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024, West Yorkshire Plan to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and work of the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, district Community Safety Strategies, Health and Wellbeing, Safeguarding Plans and emerging Drug and Alcohol Plans. We continue to drive greater connectivity to maximise the collective approach and opportunities to reducing serious violence and enabling sustainable approaches.

¹ Serious Violence Duty places statutory responsibility upon the following specified partners - Police, Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Integrated Care Boards, Probation and Youth Offending Services

What do we want to achieve?

National aims:

The Home Office outlined three key success measures for VRPs and the Serious Violence Duty specified authorities:

- I. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- II. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- III. A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Beyond these three success measures, the Home Office allowed for flexibility for partners to adopt a broader definition of serious violence. As such, we have utilised the emerging themes identified through our annual Strategic Needs Assessment and developed a broader, vision, definition and success measures which are reflected in this partnership strategy.

Our vision

We will reduce serious violence and fear faced by communities across West Yorkshire.

We knew when developing our vision that making the most effective impact would take longer than the life course of a one-year strategy, so ahead of the 2022/2023 financial year the Violence Reduction Partnership developed and adopted a 3-year vision:

“Across West Yorkshire, we will work together to prevent violence, reduce its harmful impact and where necessary respond with robust enforcement. We will do this by strengthening our partnerships, working with our communities, developing our understanding of the causes of violence, and delivering interventions that make a lasting difference.”

Our Objectives

We have established a sustainable set of objectives to provide the framework for our focus and delivery and will be underpinned by annual priorities for delivery.

Our vision drives our following strategic objectives:

1. Understand the picture of serious violence in West Yorkshire
2. Effectively share data with our partners
3. Intervene early to prevent serious violence in the first place
4. Use evidence of "What works" to tackle the root causes of serious violence
5. Reduce risk and vulnerabilities of individuals, families, and communities to violence
6. Develop protective factors which will prevent and reduce serious violence
7. Enable community and societal responses to serious violence
8. Sustain what works and enhance the system wide response to preventing and tackling serious violence
9. Ensure that all our partners embed the trauma informed approach

Our Approach

Working together

This strategy forms the framework for a partnership response to serious violence. Our approach therefore aims to embed the VRP and Serious Violence Duty through connecting partners, aligning our vision, sharing objectives, and jointly delivering at both region and place. We have a core membership of partners whose roles and responsibilities are central in ensuring a whole system approach. We will continue to identify opportunities to align our vision, objectives, priorities and delivery at both regional level and place. By focusing on the root causes of violence the partnership will support organisations whose responsibilities are to deliver, for example work to tackle VAWG, drugs, county lines, human trafficking, and safeguarding. Key strategic and operational alignment of priorities and delivery across West Yorkshire includes:

The West Yorkshire Mayor Pledges and Police and Crime Plan: The West Yorkshire Mayor places women and girls at the heart of her 10 Mayoral Pledges, it is also a priority in the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024. This specifically includes a Strategy to address the Safety of Women and Girls. There are further shared commitments to reduce serious violence in the Plan including sexual offences, child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and county lines. In addition, the continued opportunities to align with Serious Organised Crime and Operation Precision to tackle the root causes which lead to involvement in serious organised crime. This includes Operation Jemlock (Grip) which was established as West Yorkshire Polices' response to increasing levels of serious violent crime and knife crime, funded through the Home Office Serious Violent Crime fund, and now embedded and co-located within the VRP. Based around evidenced based hotspot policing, the dedicated resources provide targeted enforcement into the hotspots across West Yorkshire. Working closely with Precision Team (Serious Organised Crime), Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) and Early Action Teams (EAT) it supports our early intervention work.

This work has also led to innovative partnerships with the implementation of teachable moments and deterrent models.

West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership is a large integrated care system (ICS) that supports 2.4 million people, living in urban and rural areas. 770,000 are children and young adults (the partnership covers, Bradford and Craven Districts, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield)

The West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership is made up of many different organisations and collaboratives across West Yorkshire, including our Partnership Board which is the Integrated Care Partnership for West Yorkshire. It also contains the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (West Yorkshire ICB) which is a statutory NHS organisation. We work collectively with the five districts Integrated Care Partnerships.

As a partnership we are committed to taking responsibility collectively and individually to take action to prevent and reduce trauma, adversity, and serious violence, supporting our population to thrive in a healthy, equitable, safe, and sustainable society.

The Improving population Health programme has a longstanding commitment with the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership and a joint Senior Manager Post funded by West VRP

Five place-based Community Safety Partnerships: are key partners in the prioritisation, coordination, and delivery at place and as such will be the conduit for named partners under the Serious Violence Duty to deliver at place. These local arrangements are ideally placed to identify, engage, and respond to locally evidenced based need and collaborate with Health and Wellbeing Boards, Safeguarding and Children's Partnerships in their response.

Whilst a set of objectives and priorities have been agreed and provide the West Yorkshire framework for achieving our vision, it is acknowledged that stakeholders and place partnerships will prioritise and deliver different elements. A system wide approach will be taken drawing upon the combined intelligence, knowledge, and skills.

Evidence informed

Underpinning our whole strategy, focus and delivery, is the development and use of an evidence informed approach. The West Yorkshire VRP provides leadership and strategic coordination to embedding an evidenced based, public health approach to violence reduction in West Yorkshire. Structured with a dedicated research and evidence team at its core, the Knowledge Hub, the VRP seeks to understand and address the inequalities that can lead to involvement in serious violence, improving the safety of all members of our community. During 2024 we will continue to explore how the evidence can inform the work of partners including the local plans in response to the Serious Violence Duty.

Trauma informed approach

Children who experience adversity and trauma are at high risk of; poor physical/mental health and emotional wellbeing, substantive increases in adopting anti-social and health-harming behaviours, including serious violence, poor attendance/exclusion at school and decreased educational attainment.

There has never been a better time to prioritise the prevention of risk factors on health and wellbeing and increase protective factors as there is now. People are making the connections between the determinants of health and poor outcomes, including the impact on adversity, trauma, and serious violence.

The West Yorkshire Adversity Trauma and Resilience Programme is jointly delivered by the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership. Sharing a common commitment with all places and partners across the system to prevent harm and improve the wellbeing of our population, with a particular concern for those who are most vulnerable, facing multiple difficulties, complex needs, and childhood trauma.

As a partnership we are committed to deliver our ambition of - of working together with people with lived experience and colleagues across all sectors and organisations to ensure West Yorkshire is a trauma informed and responsive system by 2030 and develop a whole system approach to tackling multiple disadvantage.

Child first approach

This document aims to reflect a child first approach that treats '*children as children*' and is the foundation of an approach to how children should be understood, treated, and supported. This includes making conscious language choices throughout:

- Anyone under the age of 18 is referred to as a child / children. This is in line with the Children's Act 1989 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Anyone aged 18 - 25 is referred to as a young adult
- Children will not be referred to as an offender, instead a child who has offended, to prevent labelling

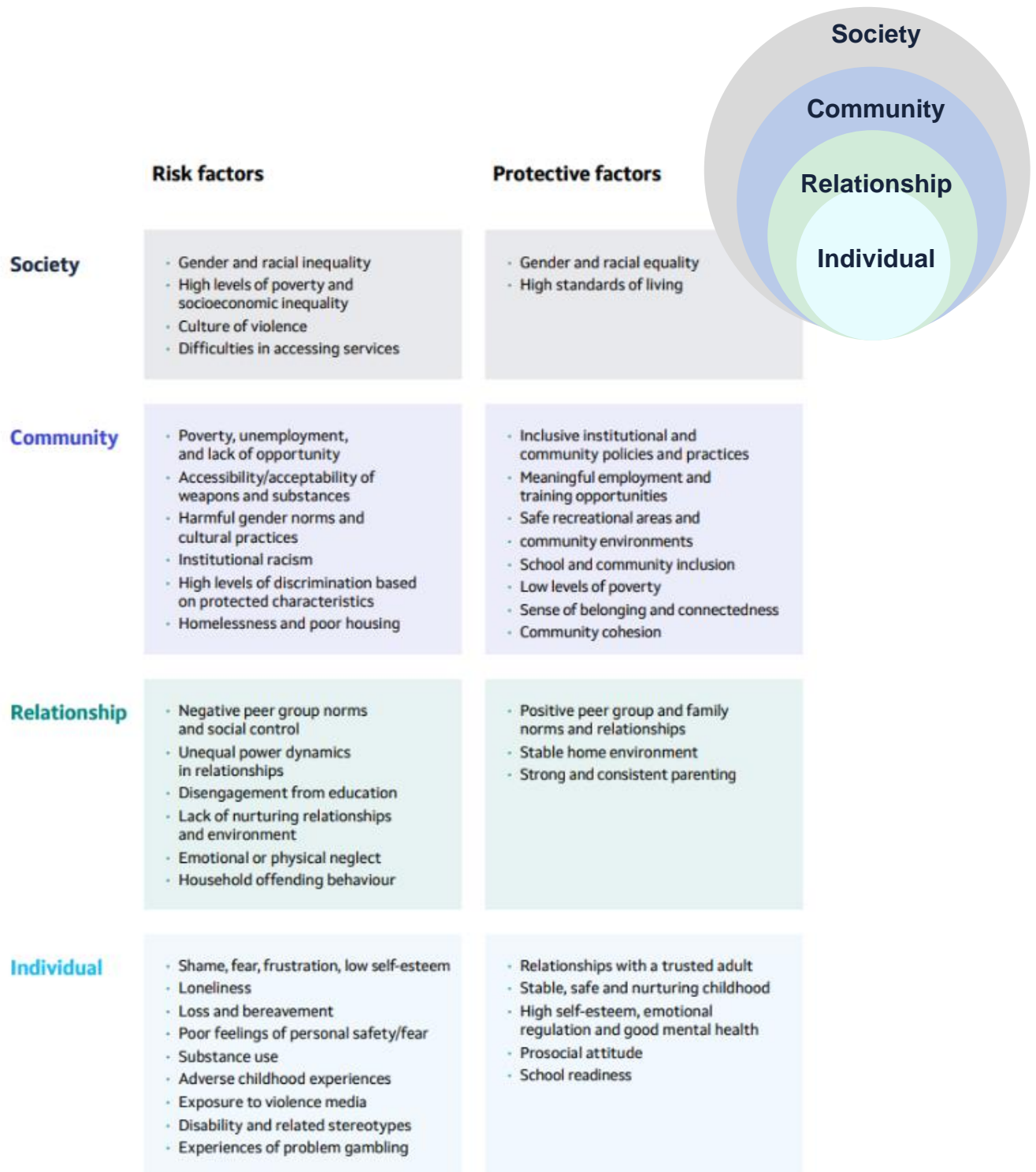
Whole system approach

The World Health Organisation has developed the four-level social-ecological model (individual, relationship, community, and societal) to better understand violence and the effect of potential prevention strategies. It allows an understanding of the range of factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence. The overlapping rings in the model illustrate how factors at one level influence factors at another level. Our objectives are therefore to work and impact across all levels in an evidence-based approach.

Serious violence cannot be tackled in isolation and must be addressed through prevention strategies which address the multiple risk factors which cause and perpetuate violence; as well as promote the protective factors which mitigate against the perpetration and victimisation. We take a public health approach to violence, our

approach and interventions focusing on deterrents and protective factors therefore aim to work across individual, relationship, community at the same time. It considers which interventions will be universal (aimed at the general population) and which will be targeted at those more at risk.

In addition, we recognise that our approach will also hold to account those who perpetrate serious violence. Our approach will include the role that enforcement and criminal justice can make to this whole system approach.



Sustainability

As we continue to develop our partnership working, we will continue to develop and implement our Sustainability Plan (*link to sustainability plan to be included once this Strategy is finalised*). We will work together to enable system change and achieve a sustainable approach to tackling serious violence. Through developing and utilising our knowledge and learning we will influence long term system change to respond to serious violence. The assets and strengths of local partnerships and communities in West Yorkshire will be harnessed to coproduce and embed the learning.

We recognise that there are no quick solutions to health inequalities and the root causes of serious violence. It is imperative that our investment in communities isn't therefore just for the short term but provide sustainable protective approaches. Our commissioning of projects and research will demonstrate plans to enable sustainability.

Community Engagement

We are committed to engaging with our communities and listening to their voices to inform our understanding of local needs, perception, and satisfaction. The joint VRP and partnership Communication and Engagement Strategy provides a comprehensive strategy, that both informs the public of our activities and actively works to bring about behavioural change. This is complemented by a practical engagement plan that ensures our work reflects what West Yorkshire communities want and need. It outlines a clear framework for our approach and the ways in which it will be executed and measured.

We want to prevent trauma and adversity, intervene early, and build resilience in communities and coproduce our responses². We recognise it is imperative to work in partnership with our communities and those with lived experience to directly address the impacts of entrenched inequalities. Our communities are our greatest assets with knowledge, skills and networks that are the building blocks of prevention and reducing serious violence and trauma. We will maximise opportunities to work in partnership to support individuals and communities who are at risk of exploitation and violence of organised crime. Coproduction and co-creation will take place at community level with active involvement from the Community Safety Partnerships and local support organisations to ensure that local people are at the heart of the solution. This will take an approach of consult and engage on need; design, deliver and commission in collaboration.

² Trauma Informed Co-production Guidance
https://www.wypartnership.co.uk/application/files/6416/5104/5038/West_Yorkshire_Trauma_Informed_Co-Production_Guidance_April_22.pdf

What our needs assessment tells us

We are proud of our suite of needs assessments that together provide a detailed analysis of evidence, understanding the risk, impact, views of our communities and need in each of our five districts and across West Yorkshire. Our West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment provides a summary of the contextual understanding of serious violence in West Yorkshire, built on district profiles. This should be read in conjunction with the Influential Factors Evidence Synthesis which provides an insight and understanding of the factors that influence an individual's chances of becoming a victim and/or perpetrator of serious violence.

Priorities

We recognise that the risk factors and needs identified through our needs assessments do not neatly fit into headings as there is interconnectivity between areas of need and place-based needs can vary. The following priorities support the national aims, our vision and strategic objectives and provide a framework for us to respond to local and West Yorkshire needs through a common framework. By grouping into the following priorities based on a public health approach we understand the influence the wider social context has on individuals, our communities and for serious violence occurring and will deliver the identified need through this interconnected approach:

1. Individual
2. Relationship
3. Community
4. Society
5. Sustainability and cultural change

Priority 1: Individual

Evidence:

Our research and data identify a set of risk factors which impact on the vulnerabilities of individuals being involved in serious crime or being a victim. Focusing on the biological, behaviour and personal history factors of individuals our evidence supports that we will have particular focus on:

- Substance misuse and alcohol
- Care leavers
- Education and exclusions
- Mental health
- Neurodiversity

Priority 2: Relationships

Evidence:

A person's closest social circle such as peers, partners, and family members, influences their behaviour and contributes to their range of behaviour, in addition to being a protective factor for violence and trauma. Examining close relationships that may increase the risk of experiencing violence as a victim or perpetrator. We have identified a number of focus areas for West Yorkshire:

- Deprivation and the cost-of-living crisis
- Homelessness
- VAWG
- Child to Parent Violence
- Experiences of sexual violence
- Domestic abuse in the household
- Young carers

Priority 3: Community

Evidence:

This priority focuses on the settings, such as schools, workplaces, and neighbourhoods, in which social relationships occur and seeks to identify the characteristics of these settings that are associated with becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. The needs assessment highlights the following priorities:

- Place based priorities and delivery including ASB, County Lines, organised crime, carrying a weapon, personal robbery, limited economic opportunities
- Lack of access to services and opportunities including mental health provision and a breadth of out of school activities
- Online spaces including the emerging metaverse and online gambling
- Sporting violence
- NEET

Priority 4: Society

Evidence:

There are a broad range of societal factors that either create a level of acceptance or intolerance for violence including health, economic, cultural and social norms, and educational. In addition, there are also factors that can create and sustain gaps between different segments of society. Our needs assessment identified the following key areas:

- NEET
- Cost-of-living crisis
- Homelessness and overcrowding
- Social norms of children and young adults, women, and violence

Priority 5: Sustainability and Cultural Change

Evidence:

Tackling the root causes of serious violence is a long-term approach with the impact not always being felt in the short to medium term. To make longer term impact therefore requires adoption of a trauma informed sustainable approach to serious violence which requires financial as well as cultural sustainability. We therefore need to ensure longevity of our approach and interventions and embedding response to serious violence into operational practice.

Austerity measures are continuing to be felt by services. A new way of working within existing financial parameters is therefore required. Working together to create system change and focusing resources on, and in, those communities most at need.

The Serious Violence Duty places a responsibility on named partners to deliver strategies to tackle the causes of serious violence further supporting the need for a coordinated approach to system and cultural change.

Our Response

Our delivery will be a mixture of short- and longer-term approaches and delivered through primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention through a trauma informed lens. The responses include a range of integrated partnership response, research, engagement, and interventions. An overview of our delivery is outlined at Appendix 1. But this is not exhaustive, and the further response will be developed in a West Yorkshire and five place based delivery plans.

Accountability

Who will be accountable?

The Partnership Executive Group (PEG) chaired by West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor has overall oversight of serious violence. Comprising of West Yorkshire strategic leaders, it brings the highest level of accountability in the region. A partnership with responsibilities extending to Serious Organised Crime, Reducing Reoffending, VAWG and Drugs and Alcohol also ensures the necessary connectivity.

The VRP is accountable to the Home Office and hosted by West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The work of the VRP is further supported and overseen through the West Yorkshire Serious Violence Reduction Executive Steering Group. Reporting to the PEG this group includes the 'core membership' as for VRPs required by the Home Office, Serious Violence Duty specified authorities, and wider partners who contribute to our understanding and system approach to serious violence. Having responsibility for decisions relating to the VRP, Serious Violence Duty, this membership provides a strategic framework, sharing best practice and alignment with district operational delivery such as the work of the Community Safety Partnerships.

The operational delivery of priorities is developed and overseen by a Partnership Delivery Group and the five place-based Community Safety Partnerships. The breadth of partner involvement in these partnerships provides an opportunity to share understanding and maximise opportunities for the implementation of the priorities.

Our network of partners and connecting partnerships are broad but there are always opportunities to develop this further. The serious violence duty places a new emphasis on the role and contribution of partners. Therefore, as our partnership continues to mature, we are further developing clarity on the roles and responsibilities of partners and our accountability structures. We will help partners to meet Home Office and statutory duty requirements as well embedding our partners as active participants in decision making at different levels. This will ensure that we can simplify and maximise opportunities of the roles of our core members and delivery structures.

What will we measure?

The use of data and intelligence is at the heart of our public health response to serious violence. We use our knowledge to plan and design our response; in our implementation and delivery; as well as informing the monitoring of implementation and impact we make on serious violence.

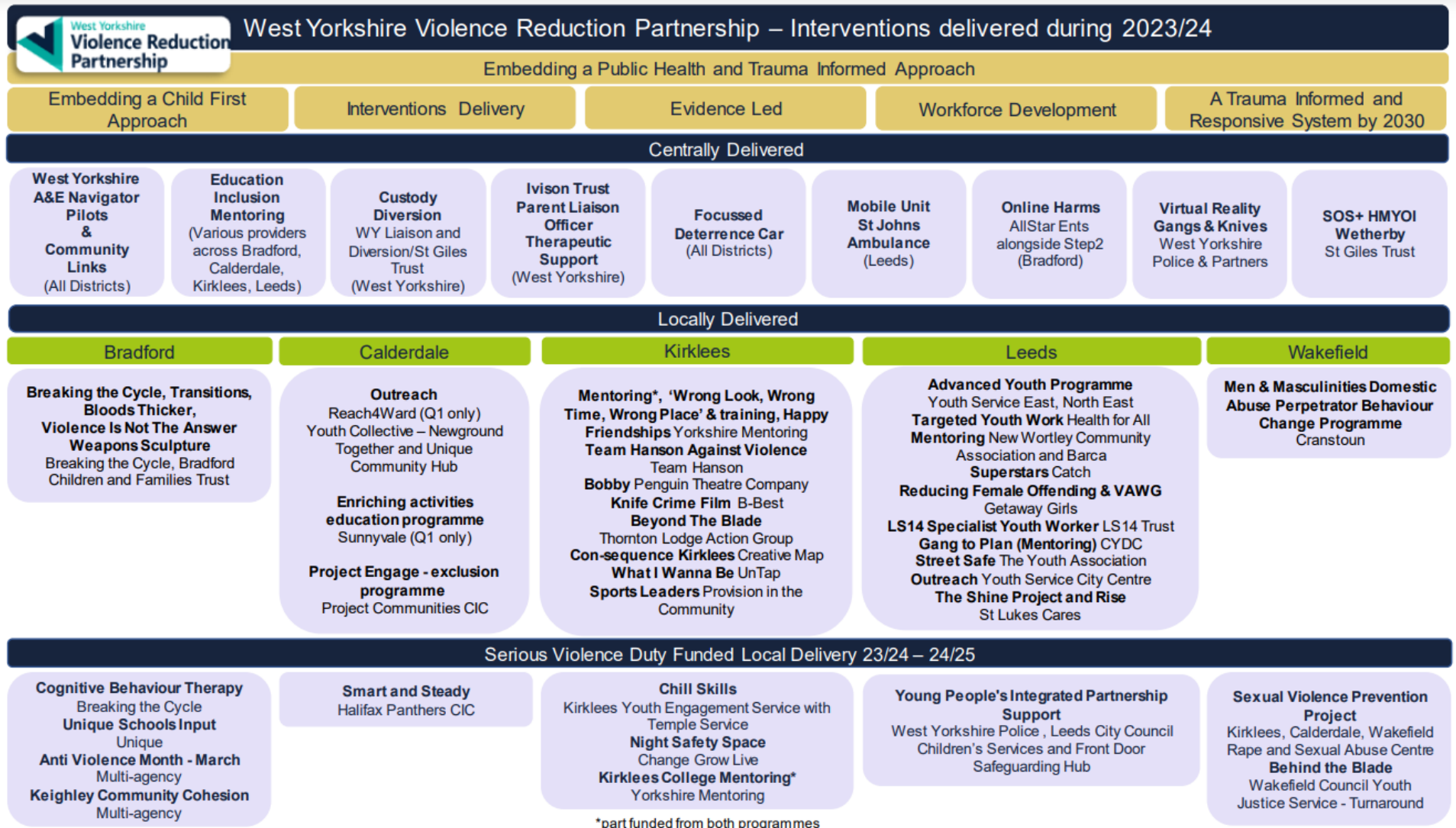
We monitor the performance of our interventions, learn from the implementation of our actions, and understand the impact that it has upon communities. Our Theory of Change model outlines the outcomes and impacts that we are aiming to achieve through our inputs and activities.

How we will measure our work

The VRP Knowledge Hub take a central role, in collaboration with our partners, of facilitating the robust evidence base and analysis through hosting a data dashboard; production of Strategic Needs Assessments supplemented by Place based profiles and Influential Factors; commissioning evaluation and undertaking research projects; and through community engagement and gaining their feedback.

Utilising our evaluation and review we are accountable for our delivery through our governance arrangements. We continue to use this intelligence and community feedback to inform ongoing quality improvements to our approach, transformation, and sustainability of our work.

Appendix 1: Violence Reduction Partnership and Serious Violence Duty Funded Initiatives



Appendix 2: Delivery from the wider Violence Reduction Partnership against Response Strategy priorities

Please note this list is not exhaustive and is being developed across the partnership.

District	Project	Organisation	Individual	Relationship	Community	Society
West Yorkshire	Operation Jemlock - targeted patrols	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	WYFRS Youth Interventions - The team deliver targeted interventions and programmes to young people most likely to use or instigate the use of blue light services now or at some point in their lives. A substantial programme of delivery has and continues to take place across the county including short talks, adult programmes, Shout, Grit, Fire Fit , Fire work to mention a few	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service				
West Yorkshire	Child focussed Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Meetings	Childrens services				
West Yorkshire	Contextual Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Meetings - themes, trends, places, spaces, peer groups and suspected/ known perpetrators linked to exploitation concerns	Childrens services				
West Yorkshire	Domestic Violence: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)	Local authorities with statutory and third sector partners				
West Yorkshire	Domestic Violence: Daily Risk Assessment Meetings (DRAM)	Local Authorities				
West Yorkshire	Domestic Violence: Support in Safe Accommodation projects	Local Authorities				
West Yorkshire	Early Action Hubs - 3 early Action Hubs working in partnership with the Local Authority, Youth Justice Service, Crime Reduction Officer and Safer Schools Officers, utilise intelligence to focus and shape intervention to prevent the escalation of offending	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Pol-Ed - a PSHE resource which is produced by PHSE subject matters experts (by teachers for teachers) to ensure the required parts of the curriculum are covered with the knowledge that all material is legally checked by legal experts to ensure that it is accurate.	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	OP Autumn glow - Initiative tackling most serious violence in the night time economy	West Yorkshire Police				
West Yorkshire	Wrong Look, Wrong Place, Wrong Time programme and train the trainer initiative	Yorkshire Mentoring				
Bradford	Anti Violence Month (15th March- 15th April 2024)	Youth Justice Service & Partners				
Bradford	Flow State Create - self expression and identity	Youth Justice Service				
Bradford	SPARK! summer camp	Youth Justice Service				
Bradford	Bradford & District Knife Replacement scheme	Youth Justice Services, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Team & The Police				
Bradford	Peer Action Collective	Bradford City Community Football Foundation				
Bradford	Kicks	Bradford City Community Football Foundation				
Bradford	Brew Project	Invictus Well-Being				
Bradford	Holmewood Project	WYFRS				
Bradford	Bonfire / ASB 2023	WYFRS & BCFC Community Foundation				
Bradford	New Burdens is MARAC Navigators	Bridge Project				
Bradford	Dance United	Dance United				
Bradford	Lotus Project - 1-1 navigator work with Sex workers	Bridge Project				
Bradford	ASB project	Bradford Bulls foundation				
Bradford	Young person IDVA - 1-1 work with young people that are victims of domestic abuse	James				
Bradford	OnTrack Community Initiative	On Trak				
Bradford	PSHE/After school wellbeing inputs	Bradford Council/Unique				
Bradford	CBT	Bradford Council / Breaking the cycle				
Bradford	Inspired Young and Healthy People	Inspired Young and Healthy People				
Bradford	Himmat Project	Himmat Alternative education and youth work				
Bradford	Khidmatt project Muslim women in prison project	Khidmatt centre				
Bradford	MIND in Bradford	Youth in mind				

District	Project	Organisation	Individual	Relationship	Community	Society
Bradford	Prism youth project	Prism				
Bradford	Place 2Be					
Bradford	Transitions work	Breaking The Cycle				
Bradford	Mentoring work	Breaking The Cycle				
Bradford	Weapons Sculpture	Breaking The Cycle				
Bradford	Consequence cards	Breaking The Cycle				
Bradford	Operation Sweetgill - Targeted disruption	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	Ontrak - 6 week diversion course.	West Yorkshire Police / Charity				
Bradford	Commando Joes - early intervention for those young people disengaged with their education, alongside pupils who excel academically, specialising in behaviour management, growth-mindset development and life skills education.	Bradford SAFE Taskforce				
Bradford	School-Home Support to improve low attendance and persistent absence rates.	Bradford SAFE Taskforce				
Bradford	Youth Engage Support (Y.E.S Project) education and mentoring support for young people who are at risk of disengaging from education	Bradford SAFE Taskforce				
Bradford	Education Psychology - work with children and young people, and with the adults who are involved with them, in order to improve educational outcomes.	Bradford SAFE Taskforce				
Bradford	Gender-Specific Mentoring	Bradford SAFE Taskforce				
Bradford	BD4 Attendance Project	Bradford SAFE Taskforce				
Bradford	Op. Nocturnal - The Evening and Nighttime Economy operation for Bradford City Centre	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	BD3 Unite - Clear Hold Build	West Yorkshire Police				
Bradford	School engagement Programme	West Yorkshire Police / Bradford City Community foundation (BCCF)				
Bradford	Newby primary Youth sessions	West Yorkshire Police / Bradford City Community foundation (BCCF)				
Bradford	Op Sicklearn- Bfd South - targeted disruption	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Bonfire Night Disorder outreach programme	Unique Community Hubs				
Calderdale	First Aid Training related to weapons injuries	Street Doctors				
Calderdale	Behind the Blade	Skills for Youth				
Calderdale	Sunnyvale - engagement and activity programme	Sunnyvale				
Calderdale	Operation Hockville - Neighbourhood and partnership operation looking at agreed priorities and serious violence hotspots	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Operation Hopeland - Visibility and engagement	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Operation Halycon - Night time economy targeted operation including provision for women, children and vulnerable people	West Yorkshire Police				
Calderdale	Weapons Awareness	Streetwise Resources				
Kirklees	Northfield Hall Stewarding	Conflict Resolution / Local Services 2 You				
Kirklees	Young Leaders Youth Hub and webcasting	Positive Stepz				
Kirklees	Youth Support Programme	Team Kickstart				
Kirklees	Boxing session	Empower				
Kirklees	Open Access Youth Activity	Brackenhall Community Trust				
Kirklees	Engagement fun day	Unity Day				
Kirklees	Youth Football Project	Yorkshire Community Development CIC				
Kirklees	Youth wellbeing hub	Temple Well being CIC				
Kirklees	Ashbrow Parent Advocacy Network	Kirklees Local TV				
Kirklees	Community Cooking Classes (6 months)	Huddersfield African Community Foundation				
Kirklees	Intro to Mental Health	Phil James				
Kirklees	Trusted adults	Local services 2 you				
Kirklees	Conscious Boys	Conscious Youth				

District	Project	Organisation	Individual	Relationship	Community	Society
Kirklees	Safe Zone -Thornton Lodge Community Centre	Yorkshire Wellbeing Skills Group				
Kirklees	Healthy Relationships programme	Yorkshire Childrens Centre				
Kirklees	Lola	Penguin Acting & Theatre Productions				
Kirklees	Kirklees Young People Advocacy & Prevention Project	Kirklees and Calderdale rape and sexual abuse centre				
Kirklees	Active By stander and allyship training	Freedom Personal Safety CIC				
Kirklees	Police patrols VAWG	West Yorkshire Police				
Kirklees	Motorbike Education Programme	Bumpy/ Kickstart				
Kirklees	Male behaviour change project	Project Zero				
Kirklees	Street Marshalls - Night time economy	Safer Kirklees				
Kirklees	Kickstart Events - Community camping trip	Kickstart				
Kirklees	Youth provision at Northfield Hall	Positive Stepz				
Leeds	The safe project - supporting young people to be safe and free from child exploitation	LCC Childrens services				
Leeds	Guiding a new generation (G.A.N.G)	WYP and Chapeltown Youth Development Centre				
Leeds	Clear Hold Build - Harehills	WYP and Partners				
Leeds	Operation Aspenglen - Serious Youth Violence	WYP				
Leeds	Youth Alliances x3 (East, South, West)	LCC and Third sector				
Leeds	Leeds Domestic Violence Service	LCC				
Leeds	Ask for Angela Leeds	Safer Leeds/Women & Girls Alliance Leeds				
Leeds	WalkSafe Leeds	Safer Leeds				
Leeds	Women's Night Safe Space	Safer Leeds/Women & Girls Alliance Leeds				
Leeds	NightSafe Marshalls	Safer Leeds/BACIL				
Leeds	NightSafe Leeds Operations	Safer Leeds Partners inc. BACIL				
Leeds	DaySafe Leeds Operations	Safer Leeds Partners inc. BACIL				
Leeds	Children and Young People's Problem Solving Group - City Centre	LCC Children & Families/LASBT				
Leeds	Street Support	Safer Leeds				
Leeds	Street Sex Work Partnership	Safer Leeds				
Leeds	Switch onto Women's Safety	Leeds Women's Aid				
Wakefield	Men & Masculinities Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Group Programme	Cranstoun				
Wakefield	'Sexual Violence Prevention Project'	KRASAC				
Wakefield	Behind the Knife	Wakefield Council Youth Justice Service - Turnaround				
Wakefield	CBT for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse	Rosalie Ryrie Foundation (Via ICB)				