

## Violence Reduction Network PCC Candidate Pack



The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's (LLR's) version of a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and was established in September 2019 following a successful application to the Home Office for a grant of £880,000 from the Serious Violence Fund.

Funding was allocated to LLR alongside 17 other areas in England and Wales, based upon the level of knife and sharp object related injuries dealt with by Leicestershire's main hospital, Leicester Royal Infirmary. The VRN is currently in its second year of funding and has recently received confirmation from the Home Office of a further £880,000 being made available for the 2021/22 financial year.

The expectation of all VRUs is to adopt a public health approach in understanding and responding to serious violence, therefore as prescribed by the Home Office the core function of the VRN is to *offer leadership and, working with partners locally, provide strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence.*

The VRN also has an ambitious vision and mission, which is underpinned by the belief that violence is preventable and that everyone has a role to play in tackling it.

### **VISION**

For Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to be a place where people can lead their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.

### **MISSION**

To achieve 'prevention through connection' by building an inclusive, collaborative and courageous network which will drive the short and long-term change required to successfully tackle the causes and consequences of violence.

The current scope of the VRN's work is defined by its definition of serious violence as: *public place violence resulting in significant physical injury with or without weapons.* This includes all ages although there is a priority focus on under 25s. The definition is drawn from applicable crime types within Home Office crime groupings including homicide, violence with injury and robbery. Sexual violence and/or serious violence in domestic settings, such as domestic abuse, are currently excluded.

The VRN is being delivered as a programme, made up of interrelated projects which work towards the strategic priorities and aims as set out in the VRN's Response Strategy, which was refreshed in January 2021. The priorities reflect the latest learning and progress made to date, whilst also ensuring that they capture the key elements of a public health approach to tackling serious violence. The four priorities are:



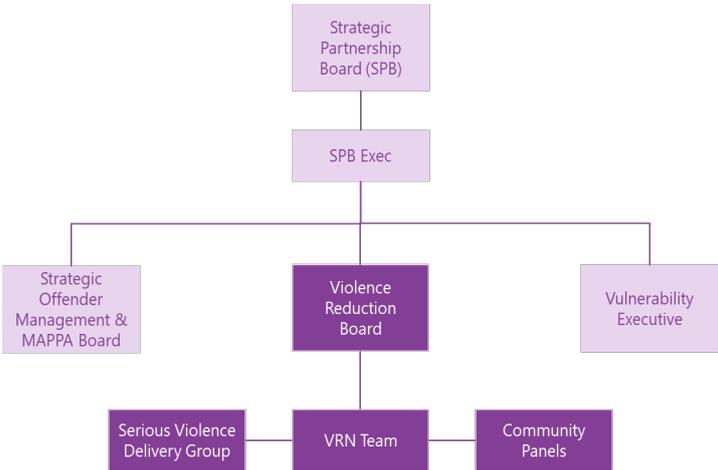
In order to drive forward the work of the VRN a core team of seconded and contracted staff have also been established within the OPCC. All staff are from partner organisations and include representation from local authorities, OPCC, police and probation as well as specialist roles such as a Schools/Education Lead

At present the team are made up of the following roles:

- Strategic Director
- Head of Service Design & Implementation
- Evidence and Evaluation Lead
- Data/Performance Analyst
- Programme Manager
- Lead for Community Partnership
- Project Development Officer
- Schools/ Education Lead
- Detective Inspector

In addition to the central team the VRN is supported by a wider 'network' of organisations and communities working together to understand and tackle the causes of violence. The term 'network' was adopted, rather than a VRU, as referred to by the Home Office, to reflect the collaboration and inclusivity required to successfully tackle the causes and consequences of violence.

The VRN has its own multi-agency strategic board, the Violence Reduction Board (VR Board), as well as a Serious Violence Delivery Group and Community Panels which support the work of the core team.



Some of the key successes and achievements of the VRN programme to date include:

- The production and refresh of a [Strategic Needs Assessment](#) to identify the drivers of serious violence acting in the local areas and the cohorts of people most affected.
- The production and refresh of a [LLR Serious Violence Response Strategy](#), which sets out how the actions being taken by the VRN will enhance and complement existing local arrangements responding to serious violence.
- The [establishment of the VRN](#) within the local partnership infrastructure and an expansion of VR board membership to include the Voluntary and Community and Sports sectors.
- [Investment in LLR's understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) and Trauma Informed Practice \(TIP\)](#), including the delivery of virtual workshops, screening of the Resilience film and the development of trauma informed schools.
- [Implementation of robust processes to analyse and monitor VRN data](#), including weekly, monthly and quarterly performance monitoring.
- The design and mobilisation of the [Violence Intervention Project \(VIP\)](#), LLR's first hospital based service offering support to young people involved in public place violence.
- The introduction of the [Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme \(MVP\)](#) to LLR. To date 83 teaching staff from seven secondary schools and partners have been trained in MVP.
- The [funding of 38 community groups](#), including the completion of two rounds of the VRN grassroots community grants scheme.
- The design and delivery of a [Community Leadership Programme](#) which is being undertaken by 20 community leaders, and will work with a further 20 leaders later in 2021.
- [Investment in the Child Criminal Exploitation \(CCE\) film 'Are you Listening'](#), which has been launched across (and beyond) LLR.