

# Lancashire Violence Reduction Network

Annual Report | 2023-2024



**LANCASHIRE**  
VIOLENCE REDUCTION  
NETWORK

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## Foreword

We are about to enter the 5th year of our collaborative work on the Violence Reduction Network, the final year of the current funding and also the end of the first fifth year Strategy.

Whilst we have much to celebrate in terms of our joint work across communities and with our partners, there remain significant challenges in terms of knife crime and violence. We now focus much more on the work of the specified and relevant authorities under the Serious Violence Duty which was enacted in January 2023 as a way of supporting the ongoing work.

As agencies named in the Duty, we now have a statutory responsibility to share information and work better together to tackle those social inequalities which we know drive violent crime in Lancashire. We are working hard to produce a shared data sharing platform which will make identifying those emerging risks in families and young people easier.

Some of the highlights of the last 12 months for our network have included the launch of our Champions mentorship programme which is now supporting children all over the county age 10-25 to divert them from crime and focus on their positive life chances. Our Emergency Department Navigator service has now been devolved to the local ownership of each hospital trust and we have therefore developed a greater understanding of the health data which allows us to target unreported violent crime in hotspot locations.

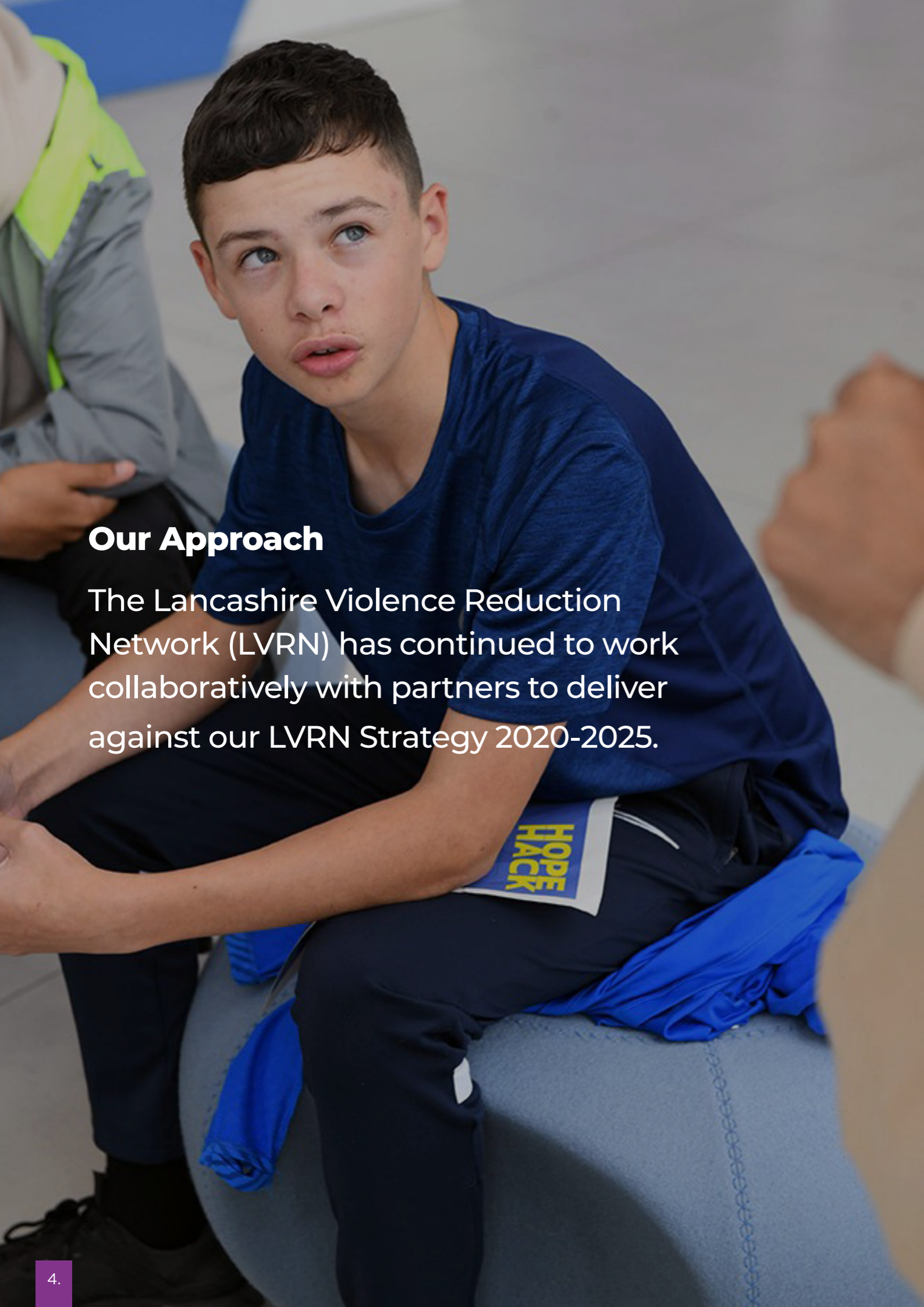
We go into this 5th year of our work with the long held and sincere belief that by listening to our communities – especially our young people and by working together we can make Lancashire a safer place to live and work. Together with our key partners and government departments we seek long-term sustainable funding streams to enable this work to continue beyond the March 2025 deadline.



**Susannah Clarke**

Director of the Lancashire  
Violence Reduction Network





## Our Approach

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (LVRN) has continued to work collaboratively with partners to deliver against our LVRN Strategy 2020-2025.



## Our key principles remain the same:



We take a public health approach through focusing on the 'causes of the causes';



We strive for primary prevention, while supporting and intervening across the whole prevention spectrum and entire life course;



We strive to co-produce with communities and people with lived experience;



We advocate and educate about trauma-informed approaches to violence prevention, adopting a relationship-based and strengths-based approach;



We are founded on evidence-informed practice, whereby practice informs evidence and evidence informs practice;



And we apply a whole-systems approach, through engaging key multi-agency stakeholders in forming an integrated system and implementing a cyclical process of learning and improvement.





## Key Events 2023



We delivered Trauma Informed training to over 5,100 professionals



We held our first Hope Hack event involving over 85 young people from across Lancashire



We awarded seven organisations the One Small Thing 'Working with Trauma Quality Mark'



We recovered over 2,200 knives off the streets as part of our work with Lancashire Constabulary for Operation Sceptre



We created and launched a smartphone app for young people to access support and information



We announced our first Champions team player ambassador, Sean McConville at Accrington Stanley



We engaged with 127 people in prisons through educational workshops and training



We provided support to 2,814 children and young people who were at risk or involved in violence



We successfully piloted automated data sharing between Lancashire Constabulary and the Family Hubs Information Sharing Service, providing practitioners with more holistic, timely data to better support children, young people and families



We funded almost 20,000 hours of additional policing activity in hotspot areas across Lancashire



In addition to our work with young people, our ED Navigators also supported 759 adults who came into A&E.



We finalised Applied Research Collaborations (ARC) as our evaluation partner for the current 3-year funding period.



## Strategic Needs Assessment Key Findings 2024

### Individual Factors

#### 1. Across all local and unitary authorities in pan-Lancashire:

- Self-reported high anxiety is worse than the England national average
- Good level of development in relation to the expected early learning goals at the end of reception is below the England national average
- Average attainment 8 score (academic performance) in secondary school is below

### England National Average

#### 2. In Blackpool, secondary school fixed-term exclusions and not in education, employment or training (NEET) levels are worse than the England national average

### Close Relationship Factors

#### 1. Across all of the local and unitary authorities in pan-Lancashire, there is a higher rate of:

- Children in care
- Domestic violence and abuse in households with children

#### 2. 11 out of 14 of the pan-Lancashire Districts have a higher than the national average percentage of unemployment

### Communities and Wider Society Factors

#### 1. Across all of the local and unitary authorities in pan-Lancashire, there is a higher rate of children in absolute low-income families and living in fuel poverty

#### 2. Out of 324 local authority areas in the UK, where 1 has the most social mobility and 324 has the least, Blackpool is ranked 316th

#### 3. 1, South Ribble is ranked 227 and Pendle is ranked 208th

#### 4. There is a wide variation in deprivation levels across Lancashire-14, with Blackpool identified as the most deprived area in England, with Ribble Valley ranked 282 out of 317 local authorities

#### 5. Blackpool, Preston and Blackburn with Darwen have the highest percentage of serious violence across the Lancashire- 14 districts

## Champions

The Champions programme has now completed its fourth year and has moved from strength to strength. Established in 2020, with a mentor team of five, the programme was previously known as 'DIVERT' and primarily focused on 18–25-year-olds who had been taken into custody.

The service has seen some major changes over recent years, expanding the cohort of individuals to now work with 10–25-year-olds and increasing to a team of 17 mentors across nine football community trusts.

The team of mentors accept referrals from education, prison and probation services, health, police, social care, youth justice and self-referrals. In the last 12 months there have been over 450 police referrals and over 80 referrals from education settings.



“

The project has helped me a lot so far. It has helped me not do stupid stuff outside of school or get into trouble like I was before. Speaking about behaviour, consequences and mental health has helped me, having the regular weekly meetings, and having a mentor figure to be able to discuss things with who understands me.

CHAMPIONS CLIENT, AGE 13

”

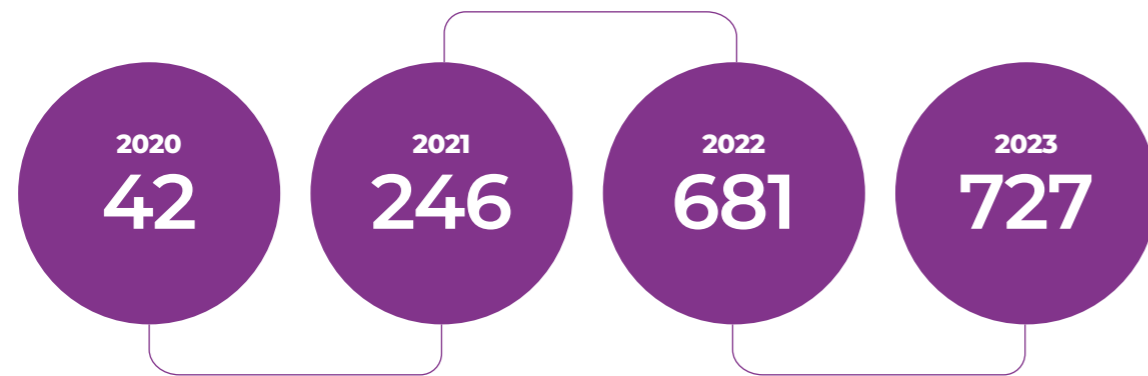
“

I just wanted to say thank you!! I hope you realise how you've turned her life around. She's motivated, determined, and happiest she has been for years. This is all because you offered advice and help when she was at her lowest. I did my best to help by loving her and believing she could do it, but without your practical help I think we would be struggling. So once again, thank you.

GRANDPARENT OF CHAMPIONS CLIENT

”

## Number of young people supported through the programme:



### 2023 Key Updates:

#### Prevention

Referral pathways outside the criminal justice network have been developed and embedded successfully to move to more primary prevention.

#### Reducing re-offending analysis

Analysis was undertaken to demonstrate the effectiveness of the programme by looking into the reduction in offending behaviour across a sample of individuals from the programme.

#### Programme development

The programme has been rebranded from 'DIVERT' to 'Champions' to frame the programme aspirationally and positively. A dedicated client focused website (teamchampions.co.uk) has also been created to reflect the new direction, offer user profiles and a defined rewards programme, placing young people and adults in control of their development and the pace taken.

#### Behaviour change

Three mentors have been accredited as trainers in the Build a Better Life programme to allow the training to now be delivered in-house. The Build a Better Life training focuses on being client-led and helps galvanise the clients thoughts on who or what is important to them, rather than their deficits or negative thinking.

#### IT/Data management

An integrated whole team IT/data management system has been implemented.

#### Stakeholder relationships

The re-branded programme has provided new opportunities to promote the service with stakeholders, which has been well-received and has led to significant increases in referrals.

A framework has been implemented for performance review meetings and a Champions/HMP steering group has been established which includes partners from statutory services and third sector organisations to develop support for prison releases.



## Case Study

### Initial assessment

- Referred through Children and Family Wellbeing Service due to his negative behaviour in the community.
- Young person displayed indicators of possible developmental trauma and still takes his favourite blanket everywhere for comfort.
- At the time of referral, the 10-year-old had multiple records with the police for incidents including anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and shoplifting.
- On the waiting list with CAMHS. Child shows indicators of possible ADHD and ODD, however no current diagnosis.
- Parents separated after mum struggled with drug use. Child is looked after by his father. Father has admitted to struggling with son's offending behaviours and is very open to support.

### How did you help them achieve their objectives?

- Engaged in a variety of activities, e.g., ACE project, Street Monkeys, Youth Zone and Turbary House. All these activities aim to help build positive relationships whilst also working on team building skills and managing health and wellbeing.
- By attending activities, the Champions mentor was able to build a good rapport with the young person and identify what works for them, what they struggle with and how they deal with certain situations.
- Secured funding by working with CFW and the child's primary school for him to continue attending Street Monkeys to explore ways for him to channel his energy in a safe and positive way.

### Where are they now?

- Since working with Champions, there have been no further incidents with the police, or any referrals made in relation to his behaviour.
- Now presents as a well-mannered child who often 'tells off' older individuals when they aren't showing respect towards staff, the environment, and the public.
- He has been learning to manage his own behaviour and emotions through self-taught coping mechanisms and has been able to remove himself from situations before talking to his mentor about what has happened.

### What are their long-term goals?

- Participate in positive activities.
- Understand risk taking behaviours and the consequences of them.
- Increased engagement in school.
- Keeping up with a routine, including going to bed at a reasonable time.



His behaviour in school has been amazing since he attended the Champions programme. He's more regulated in school and his physical intervention has decreased significantly. He has a great relationship with his Champions mentor and looks forward to seeing her every week. We hope this continues for him as he is a different child and it's lovely to see him smile again

SCHOOL TEACHER





## Emergency Department Navigators

The aim of the ED Navigators programme is to reach out and support patients that come through the Emergency Department at a vulnerable time in their life when they have been involved in serious violence of any nature, with the goal of supporting their recovery and preventing future involvement in violence.

This year, a key change to the Emergency Department Navigators programme has been the devolvement of responsibility to each hospital trust area to implement the core components of the ED Navigators scheme, alongside flexible components tailored to suit the needs of local areas and patients.

ED Navigators deliver person-centred, tailored support to the needs of clients. Navigators have also delivered KnifeSavers training at various establishments including schools and night-time venues.

Patients supported by the ED Navigator service are offered this training and we have also used a train-the-trainer approach to train wider safeguarding nurses to deliver KnifeSavers training, to ensure that children open to the Child Exploitation Team and Youth Justice Team also receive this life-saving training.

We have funded 1:1 sports sessions, such as boxing, for individuals to help them integrate back into community settings, as many of the patients lose the confidence to leave their homes after traumatic violence-related incidents. Private specialised trauma therapy has also been funded for patients if they have suffered significant trauma.

Reach is widespread but there is also depth to the quality of the interventions provided (see case study below for example).





## Case Study

A 17-year-old male was admitted on the neurology ward with a head injury from an assault after being hit over the head with a piece of wood. The assault was related to a gang who were after the male's sister, as it was believed she had previously made a report to the police.

The gang had metal bars, knives, and a piece of wood. The male intervened to protect his sister, and this resulted in him being assaulted.

ED Navigator met with the male, his sister, and their mother. Whilst speaking to the male, it transpired that the mother has experience domestic abuse and the 19-year-old sister was at further risk of gang related exploitation.

Sister explained she was in a relationship with one of the alleged perpetrators and lived together where there was coercive control within the relationship and advised she was easily led by other gang members. She had previously contacted the police to have other people removed from her flat due to substance misuse and was labelled a 'snitch'. She explained it was difficult to break away from the gang and needed to fit in so always ended up going back to her partner and gang due to manipulation.

The male explained there is postcode wars in Lancashire and the ED Navigator was able to share this information with the Officer in Charge (OIC) with consent.



## What the ED Navigator did to help...

- Discussed and explained police report, court process and safety planning with the young person. Including, liaison with officer involved in the case, ward staff and hospital security.
- Safeguarding measures considered and referral made to Children's Social Care and liaised with Children's safeguarding practitioner. Strategy meeting arranged and attended by ED Navigator.
- Liaised with the college the young person was attending to put additional support in place.
- Referred the young person to non-statutory services such as Lancashire Victim Services (LVS) and KOOTH for additional support.
- Worked with the wider family to ensure adequate support. This included referring sister to Champions programme, Lancashire Women's Centre and the Freedom Course. Mother was referred to Clare's house and Freedom Course for outreach domestic abuse support.
- After discharge, ED Navigator provided on-going support through regular contact.

## Patient current update...

The ED Navigator has kept in contact with the 17-year-old male since his discharge from hospital and he is now engaging with Lancashire Victim Services and is also supporting a police prosecution. He is also on the waiting list for CAHMS to receive counselling support.

In regard to the wider family, sister is accepting support from the Champions programme and both mother and sister have been engaging with Freedom Course.

This case study demonstrates the importance of a multi-agency approach and partnership working to lead to a forum to exchange ideas and support whilst identifying solutions. This approach allows practitioners to learn from one another, improve knowledge and skills and create collaboration and understandings of what services can offer. Above all, this multi-agency approach leads to working together whilst keeping the needs of the patient at the forefront.

This case study highlights how essential the role of an ED Navigator is in a health setting, and how the role can coordinate crisis intervention work whilst keeping patients central to the process and safe.

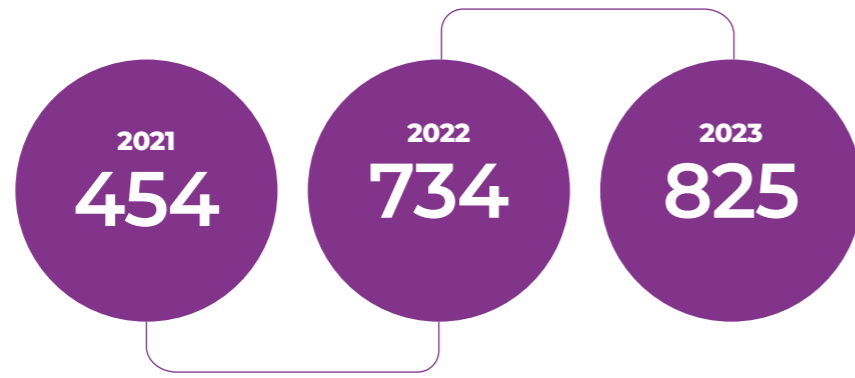
“ He won't speak to us, he's not taken his hood down, he won't leave the sofa as he's too scared in case they come to the house. He won't show us his wounds and won't go to hospital. You are the first person he has spoken to since the incident, we can't thank you enough. If it wasn't for the ED Navigator, he would still be out of education, all the support you put in place gave him the confidence to not only start back at school but to start his life again – Thank You. ”



## Trauma Informed Education

Number of staff within education settings who have attended the Trauma Informed Basic Awareness workshop:

\*Based on financial year figures.



The VRN continues to work hard to prevent exclusions and increase levels of pupil engagement and wellbeing by developing Trauma Informed practice across Lancashire's education settings.

Progress this year means we are now working closely with all parties across Lancashire who advise and support school practice, ensuring a shared commitment and understanding to promote and develop Trauma Informed practice. Representatives from the VRN are part of the Education Board and attend regular meetings.

In 2023, two schools were accredited with the 'Working with Trauma Quality Mark' by One

Small Thing and a further five schools are moving towards final submission early in Spring 2024.

This is bringing us closer to building a network of expertise and sustainability of Trauma Informed practice.

There are many schools across Lancashire that are now working in ways that can be described as 'Trauma Informed'. The example below illustrates how a school's integrated approach to Trauma Informed practice has improved in-school pupil behaviour and engagement, pupil behaviour in the community, staff wellbeing and community reputation.

## Case Study: Lathom High School

Working with the VRN, the school focused on developing a Trauma Informed approach to behaviour management and personal development to improve behaviour in a sustainable way both in the school, and in the community.

- All staff have an understanding of Trauma Informed practice, attachment theory and relational practice policies.
- The school provides extended transition arrangements for children who have been offered a school place with acknowledged SEND/Social and Emotional needs. This support is much longer than traditional models, commencing from a place being confirmed.

### IMPACT:

The Year 7 attendance for the half term immediately after them starting school and after experiencing the extended transition model including summer school was 94.9%, which is largely above the national average.

- Physical environments for interventions were changed to gain effective and regular support for a larger cohort of students who continually required more support.
- A nurture facility has evolved and now allows 12-15 pupils to access the provision at any one time.
- A newly established tutoring model is in place which caters for 2-6 children at any one time. This is accessed by children either experiencing high levels of emotional based school avoidance or on the verge of permanent exclusion. Home tutoring is available as a phased option for those too anxious to enter school. Children can also invite friends to attend at lunchtime to support socialising and reintegration where possible.

### IMPACT:

As parents are supported to become more ACE aware, they are more able to understand and challenge their child's reasons for refusing or avoiding school and more confident in seeking guidance from school and other agencies such as police, community safety teams and PCSOs. This has led to a significant improvement in rates of attendance.

Whole school increase:

**+1.8%**

Disadvantaged students:

**+2.4%**

SEND:

**+3.3%**



This improvement in attendance and support from parents has meant that the Attendance Worker was fully redeployed and trained as Careers Lead, using Trauma Informed practice to provide personalised, intuitive careers guidance to pupils and their families at no additional cost to the school. This has improved attitudes to education and employment and reduces the chances of young people becoming involved in violent and/or criminal activity.

**IMPACT:**

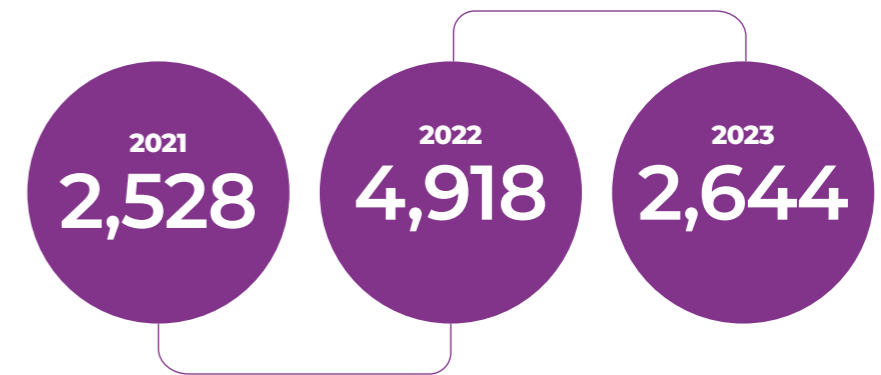
Through explicit work on relationships and boundaries through a Trauma Informed lens, using community police colleagues wherever possible, pupils are more aware of their own behaviour, its impact on others and how they are supported. The number of pupils excluded for a fixed period have decreased significantly and the number of permanent exclusions has more than halved, further reducing the changes of young people becoming involved in criminal activity.

The school created a community partnership group to work collaboratively as part of a multi-agency approach for children of secondary school age who were actively involved in, or on the periphery of anti-social behaviour. The partnership working led to a 58% reduction in anti-social behaviour and 66% reduction in criminal damage/arson. This positive impact was recognised by the Police and Crime Commissioner when the school won an award at the Problem Solving Awards 2023, enabling them to secure additional funding to continue and extend the programme.



## Trauma Informed Workforce Development

Number of professionals who have attended a Trauma Informed Basic Awareness workshop:



\*Based on financial year figures.

This year, there has been considerable progress in the work to build and develop Trauma Informed communities across Lancashire and develop operational practice and strategic organisational development.

The team have been involved in "Safeguarding Adults" week across Lancashire and Cumbria. They presented a variety of webinars on Trauma Informed practice and organisational development which were well attended.

In November 2023, seven organisations across Lancashire received a national Trauma Informed charter mark accreditation from the charity, One Small Thing and Leeds Beckett University. A further 10 organisations are on target to receive the same recognition in 2024.

Trauma Informed practice is now a strategic priority for the new Children and Family Wellbeing Service and features in their 2022-2025 documented plan.

Health training has grown and continues to increase, a second trainer has been recruited to meet demand. This has led to the creation of the NHS Trauma Informed Champions Network

Considerable progress has been made with LCC Adult Social Care with leadership and train the trainer events planned and delivered.

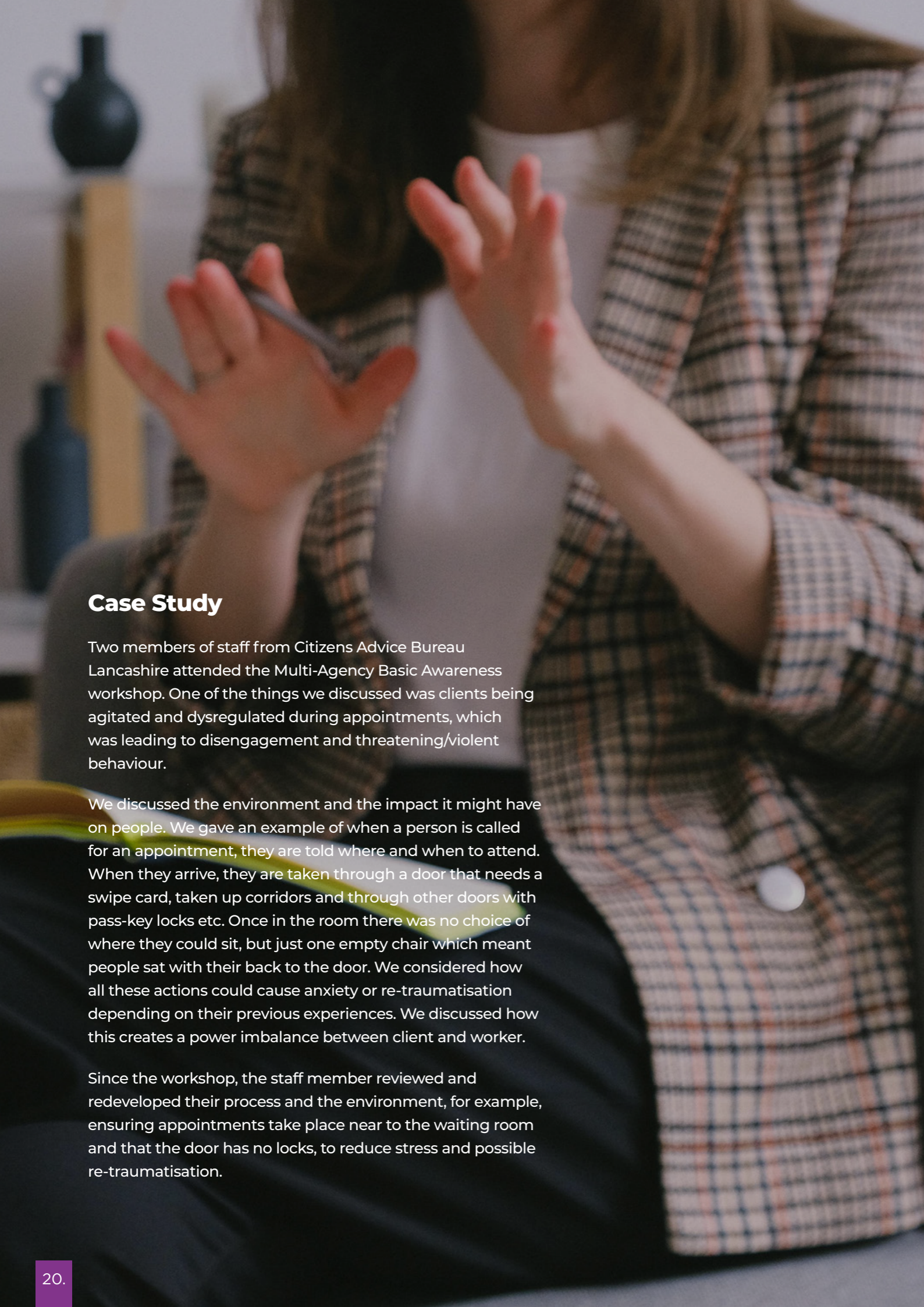
We commissioned the WAVE Trust to undertake an independent review of Lancashire Constabulary custody suites through a Trauma Informed lens. They have completed their final report and we are working with the Constabulary and partners to progress their recommendations. We are working with people with lived experience to assist with the implementation of these changes.

Trauma Informed work has continued outside of the VRN as part of the grant conditions. This includes working closely with West Yorkshire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester to develop a 'Trauma Informed Northern Powerhouse'.

Feedback on the VRNs basic awareness workshops have remained positive with 98.9% of attendees suggesting that they will change their operational behaviour as a result of the inputs.

Further online resources have been made available for professionals that have attended the basic awareness workshops.





## Case Study

Two members of staff from Citizens Advice Bureau Lancashire attended the Multi-Agency Basic Awareness workshop. One of the things we discussed was clients being agitated and dysregulated during appointments, which was leading to disengagement and threatening/violent behaviour.

We discussed the environment and the impact it might have on people. We gave an example of when a person is called for an appointment, they are told where and when to attend. When they arrive, they are taken through a door that needs a swipe card, taken up corridors and through other doors with pass-key locks etc. Once in the room there was no choice of where they could sit, but just one empty chair which meant people sat with their back to the door. We considered how all these actions could cause anxiety or re-traumatisation depending on their previous experiences. We discussed how this creates a power imbalance between client and worker.

Since the workshop, the staff member reviewed and redeveloped their process and the environment, for example, ensuring appointments take place near to the waiting room and that the door has no locks, to reduce stress and possible re-traumatisation.

## Prisoners and Prisoners' Families

Working with prisoners and their families is one of the VRN's core workstreams and seeks to improve the outcomes of those who may be leaving custody, involved with youth justice services, or have involvement with His Majesty's Prison or Probation Service. The VRN works closely with the Lancashire and South Cumbria Prison Group to deliver programmes to bring about positive change to the lives of both the individuals and their families.

In 2023, the VRN recruited a prison lead to support the delivery of the violence reduction initiatives in prisons across the Lancashire and South Cumbria region. This new role allowed all VRN funded initiatives to put a delivery action plan in place to aid implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Information Sharing Memorandum of Understanding has now given

VRN designated police users' access to the HMPPS Performance Hub. Support was provided to users to assist with using this platform to analyse data.

This year, we have also been working with children and women with lived experience to develop a resource to support children whose parents are imprisoned. The educational resource, 'Freya's Story', will be disseminated via schools, prisoners, probation and social care.

### Training delivered in 2023:



The prison specific Trauma Informed training package was developed and offered to all prisons within the region. A train the trainer package for sustainability is currently in development. So far the training has been delivered to 73 professionals consisting of 38 probation staff and 35 operational prison staff.



The Trauma Informed prisoners' programme 'Strength Inside' was delivered to a second cohort. Seven prisoners have completed this course.

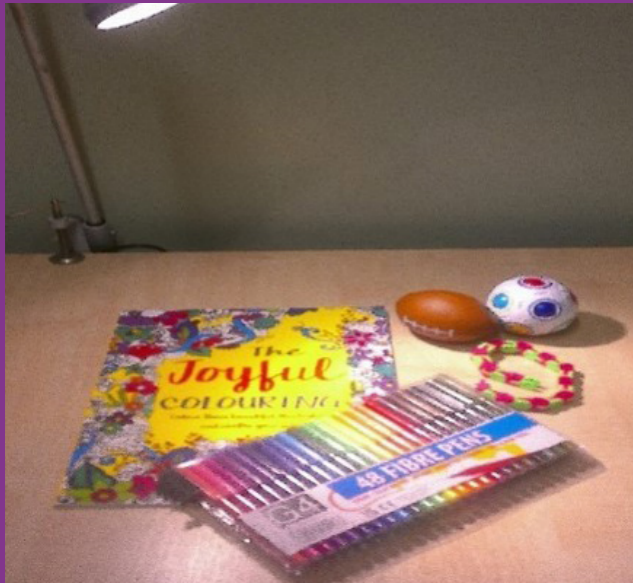


Educational activities, including the Time 4 Change course have been delivered with a focus around knife crime and serious violence. These were attended by 73 prisoners.



Mia's Story training was delivered to prison representatives across the region.





## Case Study

Through VRN funding, a sensory room has been installed at HMP Wymott to provide a safe, quiet space for prisoners with neurodiverse and/or additional learning needs.

The sensory room is used by the Neurodiversity Support Manager (NSM) to introduce individuals to a range of support resources and provide access to a relaxing space. Staff are also encouraged to submit referrals to support young adults and any prisoner who may be in crisis. The aim of this intervention is to improve outcomes for prisoners and contribute to a reduction in custodial violence.

Prisoners may bring a buddy or mentor along with them to their session and a safety officer is available during all sessions.

Prisoners are made aware of the support and resources available to them and they sign a compact agreement which outlines the purpose of the room and sets out some basic rules of use. Prisoners are expected to provide feedback

on their time in the room, promoting reflective practice and enabling measurement of impact.

During sessions, prisoners can choose how they use the room. They are encouraged to try a range of resources and techniques to work out what suits them best. For example, using the weighted blanket, drawing and colouring, using fidget toys, watching TV, listening to music or simply having a safe space to have a chat or quiet reflection. The mood light, music and weighted blanket support with relaxation, grounding and decompression, particularly important for those with ADHD or Autism.



## GRIP

GRIP activity aims to enhance the police's immediate response to serious violence, in particular knife crime. 21 violent crime hotspots have been identified through crime data and are patrolled by uniformed officers in line with a random patrol schedule to prevent violence. Patrolling generally occurs between the hours of 18.00 and 02.00 with no patrol periods ever lasting more than 72 hours. Violent crime locations are regularly receiving high visibility uniformed policing at times when we know communities are becoming victims of crime.

GRIP activity has helped to identify causes of violence and often put in place longer-term problem-solving solutions. Partners, such as those in Community Safety Partnerships, have developed better problem-solving relationships, due to the approach, and it has allowed specific issues, such as violence against women and girls, to be addressed collaboratively.

This year, GRIP funding has enabled two specific weeks of action to occur under the umbrella of Operation Sceptre, to bring a wide range of GRIP tactics together, aimed at prevention and enforcement.

Operation Night Guardian was developed due to GRIP uplift funding and aims to tackle violence against women and girls in hotspot locations. Plain clothed officers work with uniformed colleagues to look for either vulnerable females or individuals who are displaying concerning behaviours, all focussing on preventing violence.

Operation Sceptre 2023 results:

**152**  
Arrests

**679**  
Stop and search

**16**  
Warrants

**93**  
Test purchases in partnership with Trading Standards

Additional  
**20,000**  
policing hours funded by the VRN

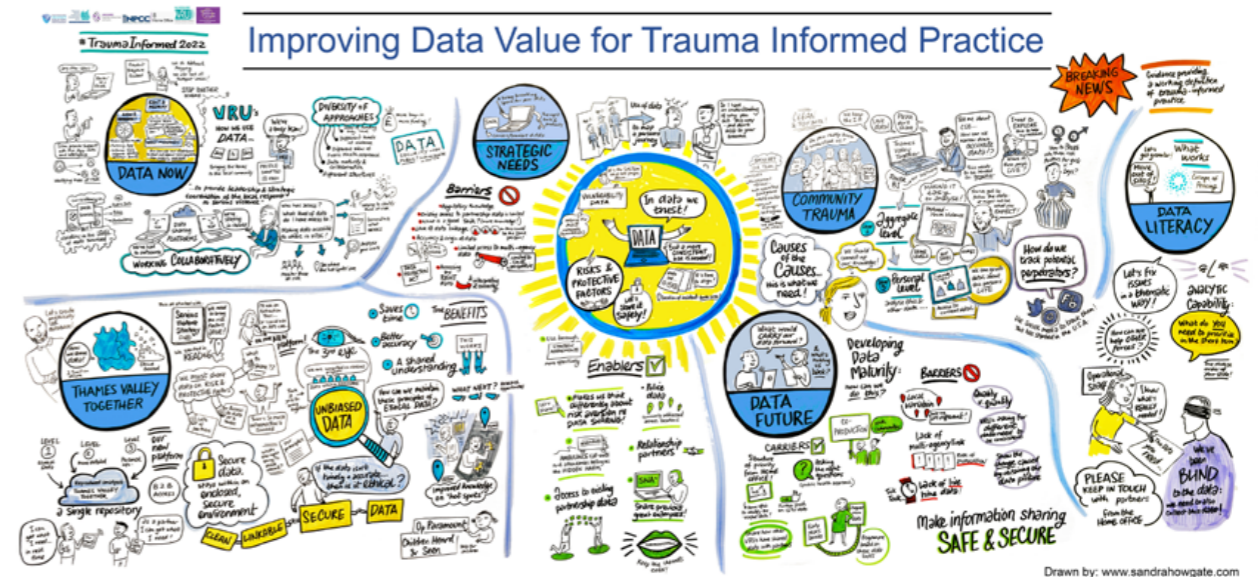


## Case Study

Two officers deployed on Operation GRIP working a 21.00 – 03.00 shift, had completed their first foot patrol on a hotspot and were travelling to the very close-by second hotspot. Whilst travelling between the hotspots they stopped to speak to door supervisors as part of their tasking to make visits to licensed premises who raised concerns about a male inside the pub. When the officers spoke with him, it quickly became apparent there were grounds for detaining the male to conduct a Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act search and because of his clothing a van was requested to transport him to the Police Station to complete a thorough search. Prior to the van arriving, the officers located a lock knife secreted within his waist band. He was arrested for possession of a bladed article in a public place.

When the male was booked into custody it was found that he had provided false details to the GRIP officers and that he had only very recently been released from prison for a knife related offence. He was subsequently charged and remanded to court where he was further remanded to prison.

This was an excellent piece of work by officers conducting the tasking as directed, engaging with local guardians/security staff within the night-time economy and acting within their powers of stop and search proportionately.



## Data

Data management and effective data sharing is a critical enabler for both prevention and reactive interventions. The bringing together of multi-agency data sets has been a Lancashire system ambition for several years but when delivered it will have a direct impact upon the core LVRN deliverables. By recognising the need for a trauma informed response to data sharing, we are working across partners, services and organisations, such as Local Authority, NHS, police, public health, and schools, to create this solution which will allow data to be securely shared in a standardised, and automated way with appropriate services and practitioners, minimising the excessive time spent on data processing, and therefore ensuring practitioners can provide the right service, at the right time to communities. Additionally, this solution will accelerate the potential of our data capabilities and as a result will support services and partners to make better informed decisions on how they

operate at both a strategic and frontline level. Of note is the creation of a “golden nominal” approach which should facilitate earlier intervention and prevent escalation into crisis.

Using the LVRN strategic needs assessment we understand what drives violence, hospital admissions, knife enabled serious violence and non-domestic homicides. The future is to use these “trigger/risk” factors and overlay them into the common data sets and in doing so use the multi-agency data to intervene earlier. This will adopt a public health approach of moving towards primary/secondary prevention rather than reacting to crisis (tertiary prevention). Whether in a hospital, community or statutory setting, effective multi-agency information sharing is needed to manage risk effectively and at the earliest stage possible. Thus, effective data management will contribute to the overarching aims and objectives of the LVRN and the significant reductions required.



**There has been considerable progress made in 2023, including:**

- Building upon best practice originally found in “Thames Valley Together,” “Bristol Insights” and Liverpool City Council. Successfully built and piloted an ICT tunnel between the LCC Information Sharing Service and Lancashire Constabulary with appropriate governance.
- Since the last report, the data governance leads have continued to meet and prepare the relevant MOU, ISA, legal and ethical frameworks. LCC have now appointed a specific data governance lead which had helped progress matters significantly. The technical specification to facilitate the tunnel has been completed by LCC and the Constabulary. Therefore, we know that we are technically able to undertake the project.
- “Thames Valley Together” have developed a model hosted by Thames Valley Police to use multi-agency data, analyse it using “Microsoft Power BI” and then produce analytical data for use in strategic and tactical delivery at an individual, household and place-based level. The Home Office have approached Lancashire Constabulary as the next pilot site to implement the same model.
- The Pan-Lancashire data group, which is a coming together of multi-agency partners to identify opportunities and gaps around data sharing for early intervention and prevention approaches, has continued to meet and has grown from strength to strength providing multi-agency governance and direction for the data workstream.
- The data group are currently exploring bringing Operation Paramount to Lancashire. This is the sharing of prison entry and leavers data with the wider partnership to allow support to be provided to the wider families of the prison population. Information Sharing Agreements have been drafted and negotiations continue around an appropriate resource to manage the additional demand for this innovative early intervention approach.

The following are extracts from several user stories submitted as part of the Family Hubs Information Sharing Service discovery phase. These user stories detail the need for such a service and how it will improve their practice and ultimately the response given to communities:



**As a Social Worker, I need to know which other practitioners are working with the children/families from my caseload so that I can gather their input and include those people in the development of a care plan, resulting in a better quality and justified case plan for the child/family.**



**As a Police Officer, I need to know whether or not a family I am visiting are involved with a Social Worker so that I can adapt my approach to the visit, demonstrating an understanding of the family, and the family not having to re-tell their story which could result in better cooperation and a better outcome.**



**VRN Funded Community Projects**

Each year, the Violence Reduction Network works closely with its communities to support work going on within the local area that helps reduce offending and support those impacted by violence.

Several areas across Lancashire have received funding from the VRN as part of our investment to support local initiatives and improve the quality of lives within the community.



**Examples of projects supported in 2023**



The VRN funded an additional 180 Do-IT profiler licenses (taking the total to 980) for education settings to use to screen and assess neurodiversity.

The Do-IT Profiler is an established web-based modular screening and assessment system considering neurodiversity and wellbeing in children and young people to enable each individual to achieve their best self.



The ‘No More Knives’ tour was funded to come to Blackpool to educate and equip young people with the skills and knowledge they need to say no to knives.

Around 5,000 students from across the Fylde Coast attended the workshops which allowed them to listen to first hand stories from those who have been involved in knife crime. By combining music with storytelling and education, the sessions allowed the young people to understand the dangers of knife crime, the signs of being groomed into county lines, and have open discussions with their peers.



After hearing from young people about the need for an app signposting to local services, the VRN funded the creation of a smartphone app called ‘WHAY’ (what’s happening around you). The app aims to provide vital support for people who are turning to online resources for help and give them a reliable, safe source of information.

The app also contains a directory of events happening in the Preston area and has so far been downloaded by over 440 people.





## Youth Engagement

Co-production was a key focus for us in our engagement approach for 2023 to ensure that communities, especially young people, had influence over the work and communications being delivered in their area.

### Hope Hack

In September 2022, the VRN embraced the opportunity to bring young people from across Lancashire together to host Lancashire's Hope Hack event in partnership with the Hope Collective. This opportunity provided young people with the space to share their views, thoughts and ideas on how to create a safer, fairer society.

Over 85 young people from schools, pupil referral units, youth organisations and early help services attended a series of workshops covering topics including education, mental health and community safety. These workshops provided an opportunity for the young people to present their solutions to issues being faced.

Young people told us they want more access to mental health support in schools, phone numbers to text when they feel unsafe, safe spaces for them to hang out, better relationships with the police and more young people's points of view in mainstream news rather than just talking to adults about topics that involve youths. Recommendations from the young people were presented to leaders at the Hope Hack and they will also be included in the 'Reimagined Report', produced by the Hope Collective in April 2024, alongside the recommendations gathered from young people at other Hope Hacks across the country.



**But I will remember this day... as I saw ambition shared without fear. A collective of young people, with a united message so clear, that hope exists... and together, towards it we can steer. –**

NATHAN PARKER, AUTHOR.

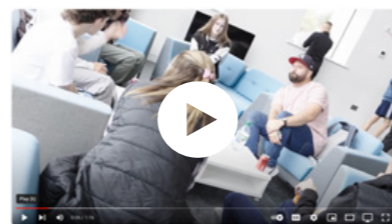


**I enjoyed feeling heard. The people we worked with were so kind and genuinely cared about what we had to say. –**

CHLOE, YEAR 10.



### Watch Video



**READ THE FULL HOPE HACK REPORT HERE – Lancashire Hope Hack Report 2023 (lancsvrn.co.uk)**



## Communications

During 2023, over 350 pieces of content, including press releases, blog posts and social media posts have been shared, creating numerous pieces of news and media coverage.

Through print, digital, TV, radio coverage and internal communications, we have been able to highlight some of the positive work going on in both the VRN partnership and also the wider local communities.

### Operation Night Guardian

Working with two local universities (University of Central Lancashire and Edge Hill University), we created a campaign to help raise awareness of violence against women and girls. The campaign launched in September 2023 in line with universities returning for Freshers week and was supported by additional VRN funded policing activity.

The campaign aims to put onus on the perpetrator and allow women to relate with experiences of unwanted attention or increased feelings of anxiety when making a journey. It is hoped that the campaign encourages people to call out harmful behaviours and stand with women, not against them.

Campaign advertisements were included across phone kiosks and bus stations throughout the county on routes into busy areas as well as through paid advertising on social media, including Instagram and Snapchat.

The campaign has been viewed over

**221k**  
Times

The campaign has had

**221k**  
862k impressions  
Watch Video







## Evidence, Research and Evaluation

The LVRN takes an evidence-informed approach; we take the existing evidence-base into account in the commissioning and design of interventions, while also contributing new insights to the growing evidence-base in the field of violence prevention.

This year we have drawn on data from a variety of sources to ascertain the needs of the population of pan-Lancashire, including: Public Health England fingertips; Office for National Statistics; Home Office; Department for Work and Pensions; Local Authority Interactive Tool; Lancashire Insight and Multi-agency Data Exchange; Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group; Lancashire Constabulary Business Intelligence dashboards; organisational audits; programme records; interview and focus group data; community and client voices. In March each year, strategic priorities and planning is reviewed and refocused, to align with local evidence and data.

Our focus is on maximising outcomes for the pan-Lancashire population. In 2023, we have continued to fund a combination of Youth Endowment Fund recommended interventions, alongside innovative interventions to prevent serious violence. Our current interventions draw

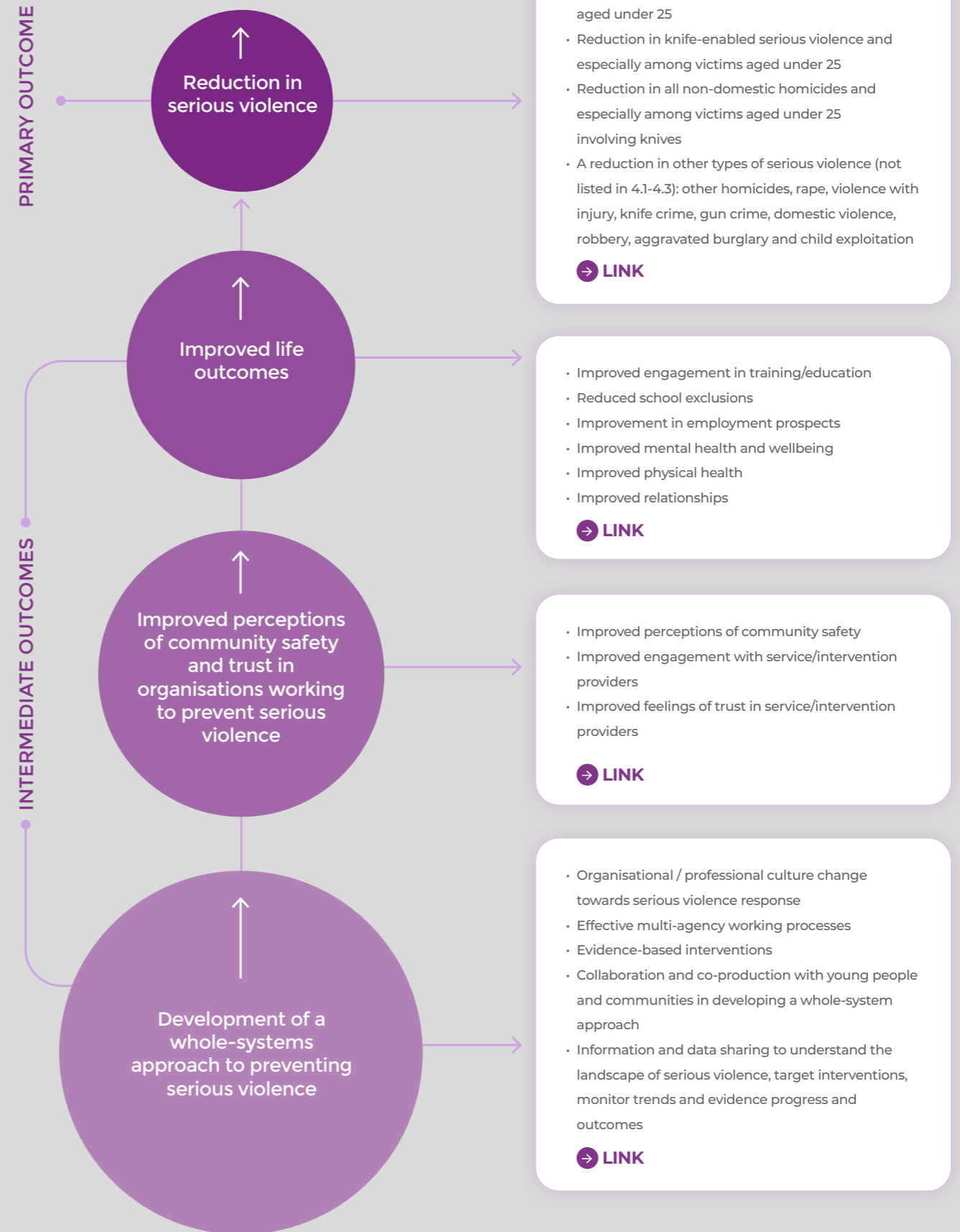
on a mixture of the ‘what works’ evidence-base and narrative case studies to understand more about the context of what helps or hinders a programme to succeed and people to turn their lives around.

Drawing on research, key mechanisms of change across our programmes this year include a focus on promotion of self-esteem, changing behaviour, improving emotional regulation, development of insight into the perspective of others, development of family and community relational ties, and a sense of purpose and/or fulfilment (e.g., through education, training, volunteering or hobbies).

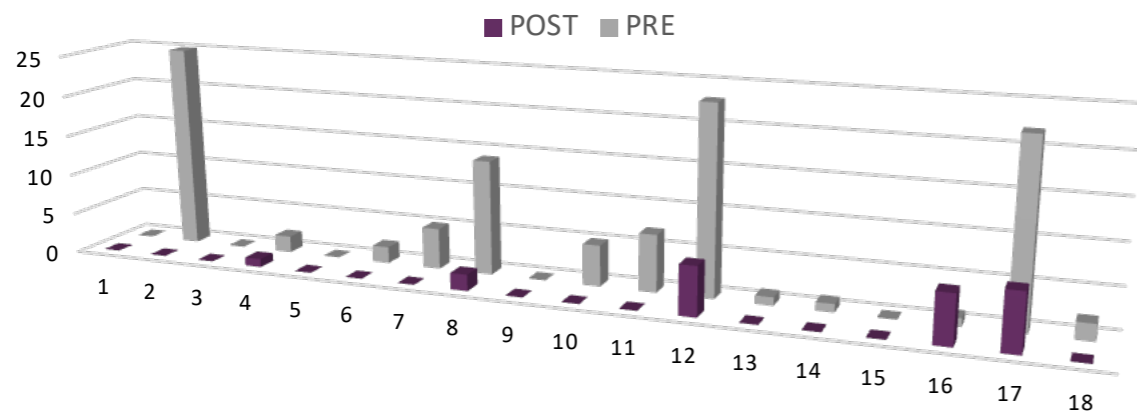
Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) are the LVRN’s evaluation partner and have been finalised to carry out evaluation work for the full 3-year funding period, ending March 2025. We have continued to review and develop our LVRN Evaluation Action plan to ensure that our programmes of work are continually improving. This year, we have also (re)developed key resources to support our evaluation, including releasing our Evaluation and Impact Framework and new Outcomes Framework 2023-2025.

## The LVRN Outcomes Framework

2023-2025







## Champions Impact

One of the key performance indicators (KPIs) of the Champions programme is a reduction in offending behaviour i.e. desistance from entering and/or re-entering the criminal justice system. To measure this, a sample of individuals from Champions who met the following criteria were analysed:

1. Multiple engagements with a mentor/coach
2. Last active with the programme 6-12 months ago (evidence-based period for 'cooling off' review)
3. Previous offence (conviction or non-conviction), or offending behaviour i.e. ASB

The intention was for the sample to reflect four clients from each of the nine football trust sites (n=36). However, there wasn't a client who met this criteria for every category i.e. 6 months had not yet passed, and/or they didn't engage with a mentor/ coach multiple times. The final sample included was 18.

The above graph shows the number of times a client was identified as a 'suspect' prior to engaging with Champions (grey bars), compared to the number of times a client was identified as a 'suspect' after their last engagement with Champions (purple bars).

As you can see, five clients had zero recorded offences prior and post engagement with Champions (this does not mean there was no offending behaviour i.e. ASB). Of the remaining 13 in the sample, eight desisted from all offending post engagement, four reduced in offending, and only one increased, going from one offence prior to 6 post engagement.

Example quotations from Champions evaluation (2023-2024)

“ Before meeting with the mentor I used to just block stuff out and ignore them – thinking that the problem would go away so I didn't have to deal with it. But because I've got a plan in place with [The mentor] I now know how to go about stuff. I know how to deal with all the problems – you just take them one at a time. Sort out one problem, then sort out another and the issues don't just build up ”

“ Since I've been working with [the mentor] I've not been arrested, I've not been pulled or stuff like that. I see a different side of life now if you know what I mean. I wake up every morning and feel happier ”

“ It's made me into a bit of a better person. It's helped me get stuff off my chest, it's helped me to stop bottling things up.” ”



**97.5%**

of participants agreed/strongly agreed that they understood how trauma-informed practice affects the nature of their work.

**82.5%**

of participants agreed/strongly agreed that trauma-informed practice has changed the way they think about their interactions with clients/patients/pupils/families.

**72.5%**

of participants agreed/strongly agreed that trauma-informed practice has changed the way they discuss clients/patients/pupils/families in their organisation.

There have been substantial decreases in serious violence categories since the inception of the LVRN in 2019 to 2023, such as a **39%** reduction in aggravated burglary, a **38%** reduction in homicide, and an **8%** reduction in robbery.

From 2022 to 2023, rape (**-10%**), domestic abuse and violence (**-9%**), and violence with injury (**-3%**) have each shown a reduction.

There has been a **13%** decrease in serious knife crime victims aged <18 in the most recent years (2022 to 2023).





## Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) came into force on 31st January 2023 through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Duty ensures serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and requires Specified Authorities to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence. The Duty is to ensure partners work together to share information and allow them to target their interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. There are five specified authorities:

1. **Police**
2. **Justice (Probation and Youth Offending)**
3. **Fire and Rescue**
4. **Health (via integrated care arrangements)**
5. **Local Authorities**

Prison and educational settings are known as relevant authorities who are able to co-operate with specified authorities as necessary. Further information about the Duty can be found in the statutory guidance information.

Over the past year, the LVRN has played an instrumental role in preparing for and supporting the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty 2023. As part of the our preparations, we led on the Home Office commissioned Crest Advisory Joint Readiness Assessment submission for Lancashire. We are proud of our achievements – feedback from Crest highlights that we have:

**“Developed a strong Strategic Needs Assessment, Response Strategy and Performance Framework, Lancashire are mature, demonstrating best practice”.**

On the 5th January 2023 the OPCC convened a meeting for all specified and relevant authorities following the release of the Serious Violence Duty Guidance and discussed how Lancashire will comply with the duty from 31st January 2023. On the 17th April 2023 the OPCC presented the Lancashire Response to the Serious Violence Duty at the Lancashire Community Safety Board. All specified and relevant authorities signed up to the Lancashire Proposal on 28th April 2023.

## The below picture outlines the roles and responsibilities of partners:

### PCC

Reports back to the Home Office quarterly on progress against the Serious Violence Duty on behalf of Specified Authorities

Supports CSPs to produce / develop/monitor local plans to tackle and reduce serious violence

Manages serious violence funding on behalf of the Specified

### LVRN

Leads production / annual review of Lancashire Strategic Needs Assessment

Leads production / annual review of Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy

Produces local district role profiles for CSPs

Works closely with the PCC /CSPs to support CSPs to produce / develop local plans to tackle and reduce serious

### CSPs

Responsibility of the Serious Violence Duty

Produce / develop/monitor a local serious violence plan

Engage with the LVRN to support development of the Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy

### Specified & Relevant Authorities

Ensure CSP representation at a local level

Assist production of local serious violence plans as part of your statutory role as a member on CSPs

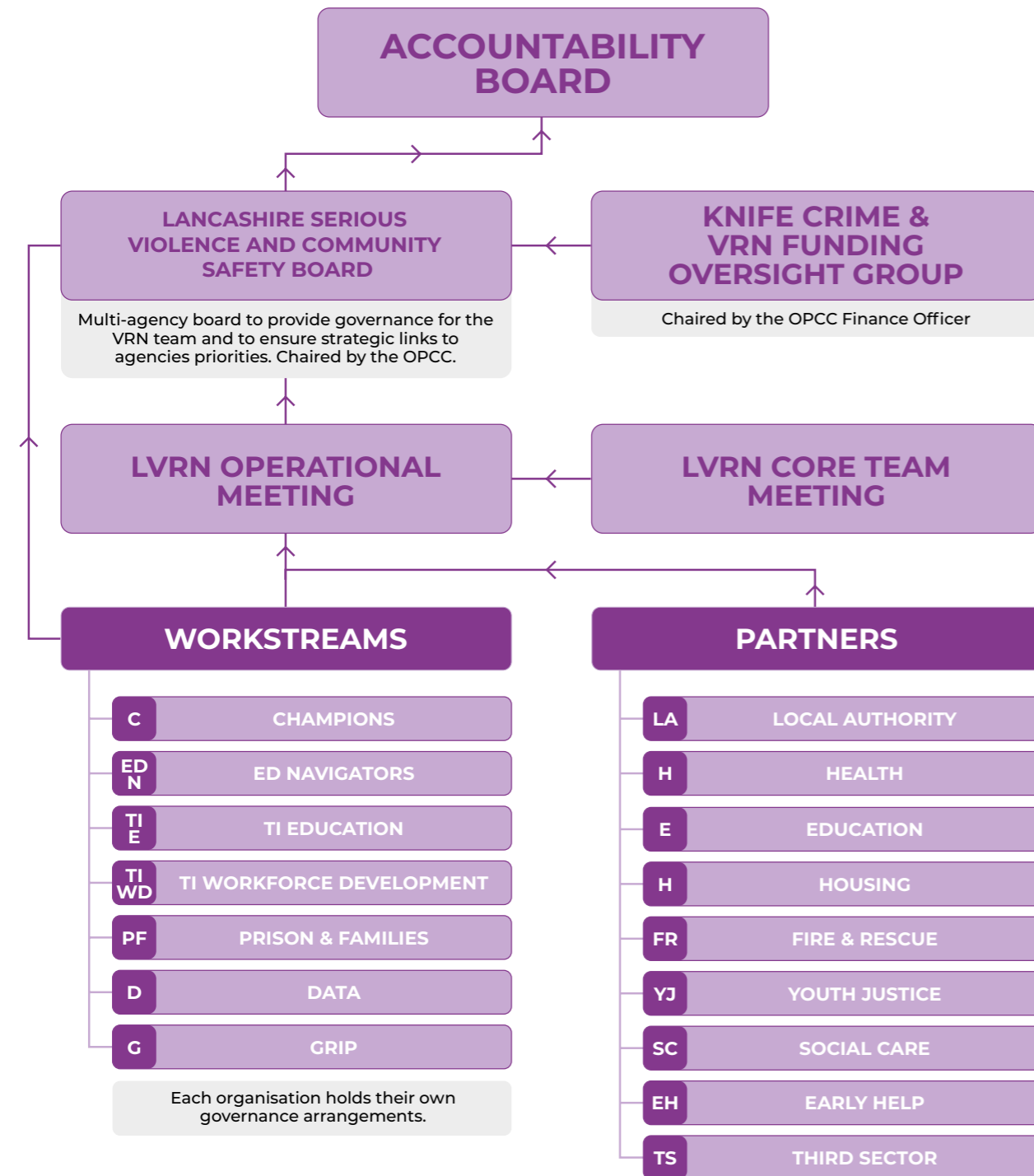
Nominate a SPOC for the OPCC & LVRN





## Governance

The new Duty led to an LVRN governance change this year. The LVRN Partnership Board has now been replaced by the Lancashire Serious Violence and Community Safety Board (LSVCSB).



## Acronyms

**LVRN** – Lancashire Violence Reduction Network

**VRN** – Violence Reduction Network

**Pan-Lancashire** – The 12 local authorities that fall within the Lancashire County Council administrative boundary plus Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool.

**Lancashire-14** – The Lancashire-14 area incorporates the two additional unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool.

**NEET** – Not in education, employment or training.

**HMP** – His Majesty's Prison

**ADHD** – Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

**ODD** – Oppositional Defiant Disorder

**CAMHS** – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

**ACE** – Adverse Childhood Experience

**CFW** – Children and Family Wellbeing Service

**ED** – Emergency Department

**CFWBS** – Children and Family Wellbeing Service

**CSE** – Child Sexual Exploitation

**CCE** – Child Criminal Exploitation

**CCATS** – Coastal Child and Adult Therapeutic

**Services**

**PRU** – Pupil Referral Unit

**SEND** – Special educational needs and disability.

**PCSO** – Police Community Support Officer

**NHS** – National Health Service

**LCC** – Lancashire County Council

**HMPPS** – His Majesty's Prison or Probation Service

**MOU** – Memorandum of understanding

**ISA** – Information sharing agreement

**WHAY** – What's happening around you

**OPCC** – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

**PCC** – Police and Crime Commissioner

**CSP** – Community Safety Partnership

**SPOC** – Single point of contact



# PREVENTING SERIOUS VIOLENCE - A MULTI AGENCY APPROACH

UNDERSTANDING the PRIORITIES of the COMMUNITY

We set up a Unit to **ENGAGE** with young people...



**LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE**

OUR KIDS ARE N'T PERPETRATORS they're VICTIMS

THEY'RE NOT Street Wise THEY'RE STREET VULNERABLE

THEY'RE NOT HARD to REACH COMMUNITIES!

go & find them & talk to them!!!

IT'S ABOUT HAVING THOSE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Mental Health is a BIG issue!

Adults don't TRUST us! - followed around shops & not allowed in

Substance Misuse

Tailored & Collaborative Response

TARGETING

JOINT PATROLS



**TRUST**

**REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

THE PARENTS

**SUPPORT BEFORE** problems occur



**PRIMARY**

A 16 year old boy we knew was stabbed by his peers & died

Pupil Referral Unit LARCHES

Working with young people who have entered the system

Children are in care not for what they've done, mostly because of what's been done to them

CO PRODUCING a PARENTING COURSE

WHO are PRU'S?



**SECONDARY**

**SHARING INFORMATION** BEFORE IT GETS TO CRISIS POINT

They are NOT 'NAUGHTY CHILDREN' they are children that COLLECTIVELY WE have FAILED

How do I manage myself?

How do I deal with my child?

TRAUMA INFORMED LANCASHIRE

Resilience

We have to get it RIGHT in house

**LANGUAGE**

STRENGTH BASED

The COST of Serious Violence in Lancashire is 383.9 million

TARGETED support to give offenders a WAY OUT of crime

BETTER SPEAKING TO PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCES



**TERTIARY**

Where does it go wrong for people, and what can we do to help without judgement?

LANCASHIRE VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK

Drawn By Rowan & Holly from [WWW.MORETHANMINUTES.CO.UK](http://WWW.MORETHANMINUTES.CO.UK)





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**LANCASHIRE**  
VIOLENCE REDUCTION  
NETWORK