

MERSEYSIDE
Violence
Reduction
Partnership



Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership
Annual Report 2024 - 2025

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Director's foreword

This year marked five years of innovation, hard work and dedication to preventing serious violence by Merseyside's Violence Reduction Partnership.

During this time, we've worked with so many amazing individuals and organisations who are absolutely committed to reducing harm, supporting young people and their families and tackling the root causes of violence.

It was an incredibly proud day hosting the '*Driving Change: The Impact of Prevention*' conference which showcased much of this work, providing insights, evidence and learning from the projects we have delivered with so many partners and commissioned services.

This flagship event provided a platform to showcase the difference they are making, while sharing our learning to better equip organisations across our region to reduce and prevent violence.

Crucially, it also brought more than 160 professionals together to look at how we can continue to build upon our work from the last five years to prevent serious violence.

The evidence, case studies and insight contained in this annual report show we are heading in the right direction.

They also demonstrate the breadth and scale of the initiatives and programmes, the MVRP run, fund, and support.

But we also know through the extensive household survey we commissioned from Liverpool John Moores University that our region faces extensive – and unique – challenges.

Anyone can be affected by serious violence and sadly, our region is no stranger to the life-changing consequences – for victims, relatives, loved ones, friends and witnesses – when tragedies occur.

That's what drives us to work even harder and why prevention is so essential.

Supt Georgie Garvey
Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership Director

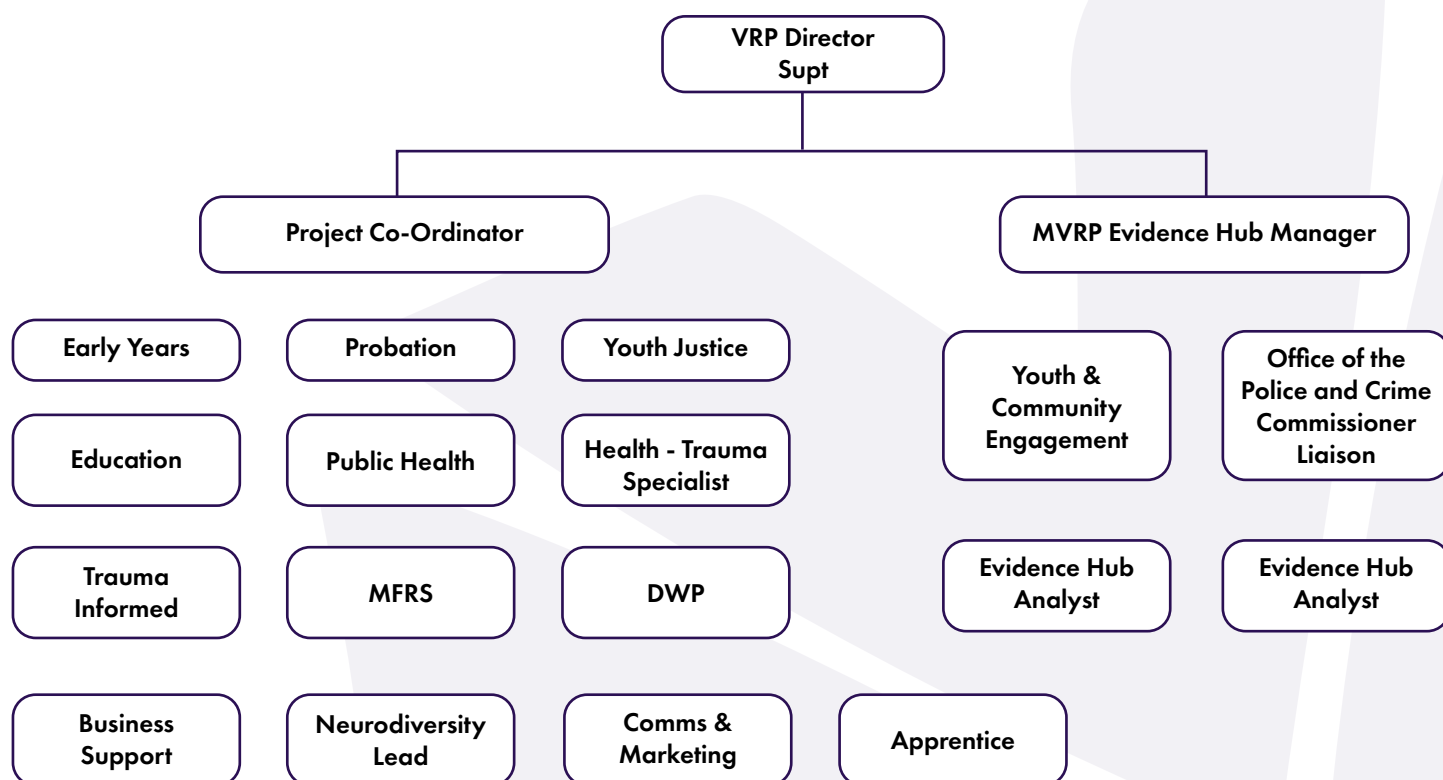


Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership

MVRP was established in 2019 when the Home Office provided funding for 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs), now 20, to be established in certain areas across the country. MVRP chose to rename the team from 'unit' to a partnership to reflect our approach to tackling SV. The MVRP brings together partners from across Merseyside's five LA's, using a Public Health Approach (PHA).

Our partners here at the MVRP are seconded from a variety of services including Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue, Local Government, National Probation Service, Public Health, Department of Work and Pensions, Youth Justice Service, Health, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Education. All our partners bring expertise and knowledge to address underlying causes of violence and how we can work with our communities to prevent it.

MVRP Structure



SNA Key Findings



Risk factor Individual

- Young people achieving a good development and at least expected level of language and communication is below England's average across all LA's
- For most LA's, persistent absences, suspensions and permanent exclusions are above England's average.
- For social, emotional and mental health in school and hospital admission St. Helens and Wirral are above on all.



Risk factor Close Relationship

- Young people looked after rate is above England's average
- Care Leavers between 17-18 years are above England's average for being NEET
- Liverpool's unemployment estimation percentage for 2023 has nearly doubled in comparison to the previous year



Risk factor Community

- For both drug and alcohol treatment and homelessness Merseyside is above England's average.
- Liverpool ward 'Central' is ranked the most deprived in England
- The North West had the highest recorded unregistered children's homes in England for 2023/24



Blue light profile for under 25's

- Saturdays and Sundays were the peak days. However, a variation of weekdays stands out with not too much difference.
- Evenings peaked, starting to increase from 14:00-15:59 hours.
- For blue light services, where age is available, the peak age group was 15-24
- Males were recorded higher for both victims and suspects of serious violence
- Where ethnicity is known, for both victim and offender, the majority were white British
- Liverpool had the highest reporting for serious violence from all emergency services

Driving Change: The Impact of Prevention

The 'Driving Change: The Impact of Prevention' conference showcased the innovative work which has been delivered by the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (MVRP) over the past five years and provided insights, evidence and learning from the projects it delivers with a wide range of partners and commissioned services.

The event featured speakers from the police, health professionals, teachers, youth practitioners, the probation service, those with lived experience and young people, all focused on providing an insight into the most effective ways to tackle the underlying causes and triggers of violence and to support young people and their families.

The conference featured more than 25 sessions from a wide range of experts and local leaders who presented evidence and learning on how violence can be prevented based around the five key areas which the MVRP focuses its work – early years, education, health, whole family approach and preventing offending.

These ranged from presentations on topics as diverse as providing better support for vulnerable women who are pregnant, to preventing child to parent and adult abuse, gambling and a wide range of education programmes in schools and alternative settings.

There were also sessions on supporting young people with a parent in prison, diverting those on the cusp of the criminal justice system and providing better opportunities and employment.

There was also a focus on the 'voice of the child' with presentations from young people who have experience of having a parent in prison, who have been supported by the MVRP's partner Time Matters. Also, the impact of youth diversion activities from young people from Toxteth El8te.

"It was brilliant to hear about the impact that some of the MVRP's projects/programmes were having for those young people, and a real inspiration and motivator to keep on going with the work I do."

Feedback from an attendee from what they liked about the conference.

"Amazing to have young people there giving feedback too - a credit to themselves and their organisations!"

Feedback from an attendee over what they liked about the conference.

To view the presentations delivered at the conference, click on the following link: [Driving Change: The Impact of Prevention - Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership](#)

Following a short survey given to professionals attending the conference, most attendees' responses to what they would like to see from the VRP in 2025/26 is to 'keep going'. However, there were some further topics that they would like to see (the ones in bold are categories that came up from more than one attendee):

- **More events/Networking opportunities/chances to present**
- **Catalogue of funding work/keep informed of VRP work/communication**
- **Other funding avenues/future sustainability**
 - Family based interventions
 - Universal work for early years
 - Helping schools to tackle racism from early years upwards
 - Continue building evidence
 - Consistency of inputs in schools – all schools not just specific schools.



MVRP won Police and Crime Commissioner's Award

This year MVRP were thrilled to have received the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Emily Spurrell's award at the fantastic Merseyside Police Community First awards held in December 2024.

We are delighted to get this recognition for the work of our team, our partners and a whole host of community organisations, all united in their determination to prevent serious violence.

It was an honour to share the stage with so many other amazing nominees and winners, who were being recognised for their work and serving communities across Merseyside.

"By identifying where organisations can work closer together, forging bonds and bridging gaps, this team has played a pivotal role in helping to reduce serious violence in our region.

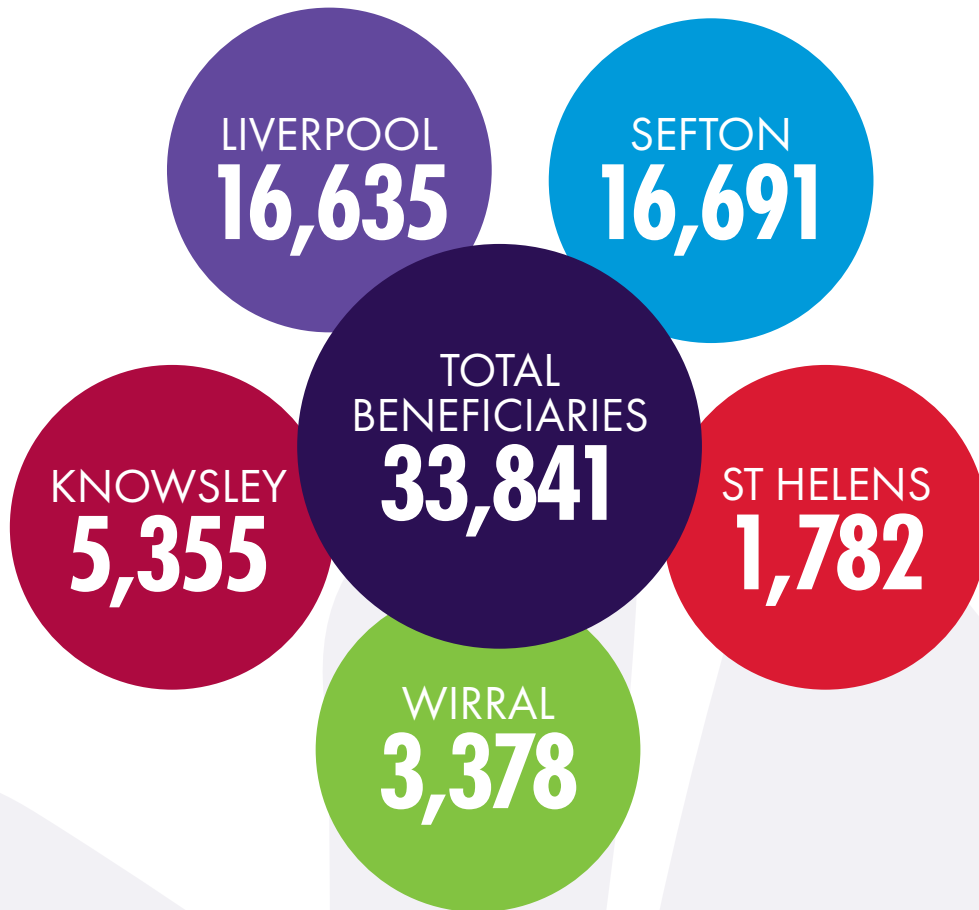
Over the past five years, they have reached more than 114,000 young people through their positive interventions delivered by a diverse range of partner organisations and community groups.

The projects they run and commission are increasing aspirations and changing lives. For the better. Increasing aspirations, improving life chances and preventing harm."

PCC Emily Spurrell



Total Beneficiaries



Strategic Themes



EARLY YEARS

The first 1,000 days of a child's life are crucial for child development and wellbeing. There is clear evidence that experiences during the early years of life play a unique role in shaping a child's brain, with long-term consequences for health and wellbeing and life chances. The focus on early years, will complement the additional priorities to address the whole life cycle, including parent and family-based interventions, school readiness, building bonds, and understanding the importance of attachments and relationships.



EDUCATION

The whole school approach is key to implementing sustainable practices whilst building our offer to support statutory educational settings with guidance and programmes to reduce serious violence, exploitation, and other associated issues. There is a commitment to ensuring a strategic, evidence-based, co-ordinated approach which accurately measures impact, avoids repetition and protects against re-traumatisation.



HEALTH

Health is a cross cutting thematic, interwoven into all programme design and implementation, ranging from whole systems understanding, system and process evaluations for programmes, to health-based interventions to provide opportunities to prevent and reduce serious violence. These could include improving mental health, physical health, and wellbeing, to understanding mental illness, understanding resilience in communities, or even access to health services. As this develops there will be opportunities for learning and evidence building to inform best practice, training and upskilling professionals, and ensuring our communities are represented and understood by our partnered professional bodies.



PREVENTING OFFENDING

Previously titled 'Reducing Reoffending', MVRP want to focus on preventing any offending at the earliest opportunity, with the aim to also support those at reducing reoffending. Providing practical support assists to address individual need to aid rehabilitation and reduce offending, and restorative practices and programmes support the understanding of personal behaviours to aid positive change. Also aiming to support system and process change to aid those individuals and their families, from issues such as financial and housing support, to maintaining bonds and relationships with children and family members outside of the criminal justice system.



WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH

A holistic approach to supporting the whole family as a unit, bridging the gaps and bonds between parents and their children to prevent the impact of violence, allowing parents to understand and address their own trauma / ACEs to support them to be better parents. This is complemented by providing practical support for children and peer support.

Strategic Themes

Early Years

There is clear evidence that experiences during the early years of life play a unique role in shaping a child's brain, with long-term consequences for health and wellbeing and life chances.

That is why we work with experts on projects that start early – even in the womb!

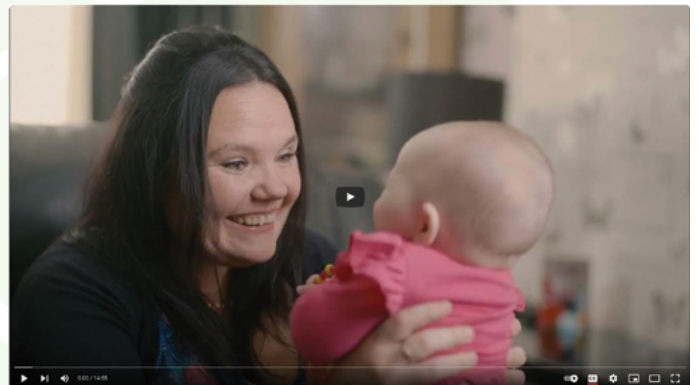
Through these initiatives, our aim is to support parents to build secure attachments and loving bonds with their babies and toddlers and go onto break tough negative life cycles which may get in the way of what is the most important relationship – the parent infant relationship.

Building Attachment and Bonds (BABs)

In collaboration with Mersey Care, MVRP funded BABs in St Helens. This service supports babies and children, and their parents and carers to establish a healthy and supportive start in life, addresses the whole family approach and really focuses on the public health approach to reduce violence and risk factors for families.

Number of U25's reached	175	These numbers also include unborn babies, children and young people and parents.
Number of over 25's/other	78	

Some of the parents have experienced ACEs in their own childhood, substance misuse, mental health and physical abuse. Over this financial year BABs have had a major impact on parents and their children, one clear impact is giving the parents the confidence to realise they are brilliant parents. To highlight the hard work and support that has been provided by BABs, they created a video of the service users and professionals and impact made. Please see the link to the video below.



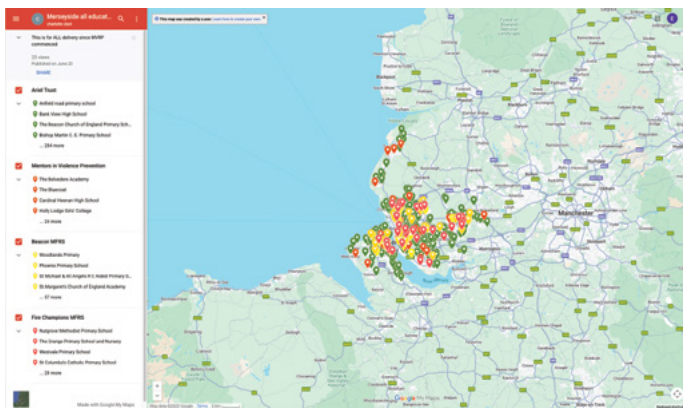
<https://youtu.be/94wcLeRAv-w>



Strategic Themes

Education

Education is key to providing support for our young people to lead positive lifestyles. MVRP fund several programmes that provide resource, education and training to provide our young people in Merseyside with the skills to be the healthiest, resilient and informed version of themselves. In 2024/25 10,508 young people were reached through programmes aimed at delivering in schools. The following link provides a maps to show schools that have received delivery [Merseyside education map - Google My Maps](#)



Ariel Trust

For the past four years, MVRP have funded Ariel Trust to deliver programmes into primary schools to educate young people at key stage two over how to refuse and resist the grooming of gangs. Ariel Trust also delivers 'send me a selfie' which focuses on helping young people to identify inappropriate language and misogyny. Training and resources are provided to teachers on the above programmes to embed into their teaching. Since MVRP have provided funding to Ariel Trust they have reached 14,783 young people and delivered training to 703 teachers to continue the message and resource Ariel Trust provide.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of young people reached	2544	2456	4307	5476
Number of teachers trained	183	57	165	298

Continued development is being made to Ariel Trust to ensure their programme is having maximum reach and impact.

To double the number of children taking part in this type of violence reduction education they began piloting projects at Key stage one. This is a complicated challenge because it is important to work with young children in ways that are age appropriate. The pilot project enabled Ariel Trust to work closely with KS1 teachers and develop new approaches to violence reduction education in response to the needs of younger children.

To develop a closer relationship with front line police officers, they made a new film with colleagues from the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team. This film is designed to prevent the crime that is committed when children share indecent images with one another (peer-to-peer sharing). At a recent sexual violence strategy group meeting this form of crime was identified as a serious and growing area of criminal activity and Merseyside Police called for new, preventative action in relation to this problem. Ariel Trust responded to this call to action by engaging front line officers in a problem-solving approach alongside, parents, children and teachers.

Ariel Trust Website: [Engaging Young People](#) | [Ariel Trust](#)



Strategic Themes

Education

Ariel Trust Case Study

"The 'Parental Engagement Performance' delivered at the end of each programme is designed to celebrate and showcase the work of the children but also to actively engage their parents and encourage the adults to reflect on how they communicate in challenging situations.

Each session begins by sharing the short animation that the group has been using as the stimulus for their dramas. For example, one group explored gang-based exploitation using the animation 'Grassing or Grooming?', which focuses on Dean, a child who is groomed by an older boy, Ellis, and is persuaded to carry packages for him. The children then gave a short performance depicting their imaginings of the inner lives of the two main characters, Dean and Ellis.

The group then showed back a scenario where Dean attempted to communicate his feelings and problems to a parent who is too busy, distracted, or dismissive to truly listen. The scenario was intentionally relatable, reflecting everyday interactions that parents often overlook. Following the initial performance, we invited the parents to intervene, suggest alternative responses, and even taking on the role of the parent to explore different ways of handling the situation.

The level of engagement from the parents was one of the most rewarding aspects of the workshop. Initially, as expected, there was some hesitation. Forum Theatre requires vulnerability, and stepping into a role—especially one so close to one's personal life—can be daunting. However, once the first few participants stepped forward and began to make suggestions and perform their alternatives, the atmosphere shifted. The collective sense of responsibility and shared experiences led to deeper involvement. Parents started to openly discuss their own struggles with communication, acknowledging that they often fail to listen to their children in the ways they know they should.

The most significant outcome of the workshop was the shift in mindset it facilitated. Many parents left with a deeper understanding of the importance of active listening and a renewed commitment to fostering open communication with their children. Forum Theatre's participatory nature allowed them to experiment with new approaches in a safe space, which in turn gave them the confidence to apply these strategies in real life.

Several participants mentioned in the closing discussion that the workshop helped them realise how much their children's voices had been marginalised, often"

Strategic Themes

Health

We work closely with public health professionals, including doctors, nurses, local authorities, and mental health counsellors to get to the root of issues that cause violence.

Led by our Health Lead, Trauma Consultant Nikhil Misra, our Healthcare Professionals' Network brings together clinicians, NHS decision-makers, police, community groups and other violence reduction units to discuss the role they could play in supporting victims of violence, intervening early during the patient's journey, and providing crucial links that can support that individual and their family and break the cycle of violence.

Knife Savers

KnifeSavers has been founded by trauma doctors at the Major Trauma Centre at Aintree University Hospital in Liverpool, in conjunction with victims of knife trauma and their families.

Their campaign is to educate and empower people on how to treat life threatening knife injuries. A bleed control pack has been carefully put together by the expertise of Trauma professionals, with equipment that could save someone's life. Alongside this, an education package has been developed to train young people and professionals on how to use the bleed control kit to save a life.

There are three simple and effective elements to KnifeSavers:

- 1 The delivery of a practical educational programme, both throughout our local community and nationally, to equip members of the public with the skills necessary to control bleeding following a knife injury and to educate about the potentially fatal risks of a single knife wound from a healthcare perspective.
- 2 The development of a rapid access, real-time 'bleeding control' guide - available online and through a smartphone app - to support those who are dealing with a knife wound in front of them.
- 3 The delivery of Knife Savers 'Bleeding Control Packs' which are placed in strategic locations around the city of Liverpool and across Merseyside. These packs have been specially designed to provide real-time assistance to those who are dealing with bleeding from a knife wound, giving them high quality, life-saving equipment. Our app and education programme explain how to use the equipment contained within these packs. Public access bleeding control cabinets have been designed and installed around strategic areas in Merseyside as well, containing bleeding control packs.

This year MVRP have supported KnifeSavers in funding and development of their innovative E-learning package, which brings the education, knowledge and experience of the KnifeSavers campaign to all secondary education institutions in the region.

Key developments:

- More than 6000 people have been trained to use the bleed control packs, more than 3000 bleed control packs distributed, 150 bleed control cabinets installed around Merseyside, 2000 App users and 150 health care professional trainers
- In 2024/25 150 schools were reached and received the bleed control education
- In November 2024 over 100 students from 10 schools attended the bleed control training day at Anfield football stadium during Op Sceptre week

Impacts:

- Merseyrail – There are bleeding control kits in all 69 stations of the rail network and training in bleeding control has been built in the Merseyrail training programme and their induction curriculum.
- Regional Universities – KnifeSavers bleeding control training is now embedded into the curriculum in both Liverpool John Moores University and Edge Hill University for Health care students (paramedics and nurses). Students who undergo the training are able to cascade the education and training further by running their own local training sessions.
- The bleeding control packs have been used in incidents which have resulted in life saving scenarios
- An academic evaluation of the campaign by the Public Health Institute at LMU demonstrated a statistically significant increase in the knowledge of the risks of a knife wound and the confidence in assisting a victim.



Strategic Themes

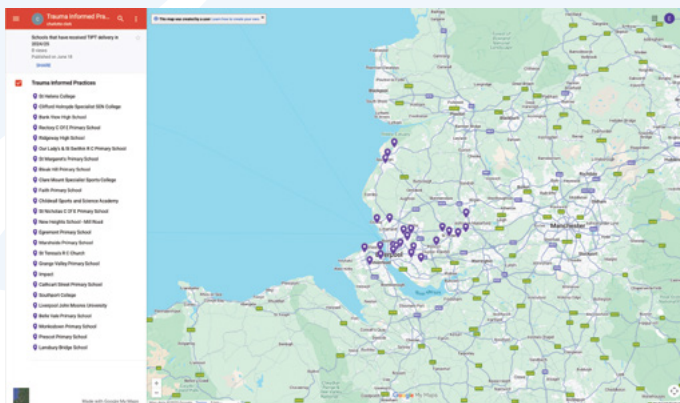
Health

Trauma Informed Practice

MVRP started the roll out of free Trauma Informed Practice Training (TIPT) in 2023 to public services. In total 5,250 professionals have attended and completed the four sessions covering the six-core trauma informed principles. To continue the development of TIPT and to increase the reach of the training, recruitment of another trainer, administrator and an apprentice have been appointed. This has had a positive impact with TIPT reaching over 4,500 professionals in this financial year. Professionals include the blue light services to DWP and many more in-between.

Key developments:

- Recruitment of more TIPT staff - this included a second trainer, administration staff and an apprentice. This has ensured further reach to public service professionals.
- Creation and delivery of TIPT E – Learning packages – ensures further reach to partners (This is currently being used to deliver to Merseyside Police and Merseyside NHS staff).
- Hosted 3 'Trauma Informed Curiosity Champions Conferences'. This has been developed to help strategic partners embed TIPT into their organisations.
- Delivered into 26 education settings. The following link provides a map of where the TIPT training has been delivered [Trauma Informed Practices Training - Google My Maps](#)



Impact:

- Provides understanding of individuals and their family's experiences.
- Use the knowledge learnt over the sessions to guide and inform the professionals role going forward.
- Provides a clear understanding between the brain and trauma, attachment and ACEs.
- Improve outcomes and change the experiences young people have had.
- Changing perceptions.

Feedback from the training:

"I am more aware of how my actions and what I say can really influence the way you handle a situation. I am also aware that the situations we deal with so impact on my own mental health and it is important to take the time to deal with this."

Delegate that has completed the training.

"It has had a huge impact on all of our staff. Everyone in the school has commented on the ways in which our practice has evolved given what we have learned."

Delegate that has completed the training.

"This initiated a personal growth journey that has encompassed mind, body and soul."

Delegate that has completed the training.



Strategic Themes

Preventing Offending

Our work is focused on preventing offending but also those who are already in the Criminal Justice system. Through positive interventions and being trauma informed we are determined to help them address the issues they face and turn a corner towards a brighter future.

There are different risk levels for young people's links to criminality, this year young people who have been part of our interventions have been assessed as (where known):

Target Group	Count of
Universal	22,288
High Risk	667
Known Risk	184
Involved	11

This year MVRP have been a part of changing systems and procedures that are already in place. Our Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) lead brought together partners to make changes to systems to better support care leavers who are in the criminal justice system. We further supported our partners at the Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Merseyside Police gathering evidence of success for Operation Inclusion.

Improving support for Care-Experienced Young People in Custody (CEYPiC)

DWP and partners

MVRP funded an in-person workshop to improve support for care-experienced young people in Merseyside prisons. Facilitated by the DWP, delegates included managers and Personal Advisers from each of the five Leaving Care Teams from across the Liverpool City Region. Partners from HMP Liverpool, HMP Altcourse and other organisations who work with and support young people who are care-experienced also attended.

The workshop aimed to improve HMP, DWP Prison Work Coach (PWC) and Local Authority Personal Adviser (PA) support for care experienced people in prison on admission, during their sentence and prior to their release, specifically:

- Improve links between DWP, HMP Care Experienced Leads & Local Authority PAs and create clear channels of communication between them
- Ensure CEYPiC themselves, and those supporting them, are aware of the DWP PWC offer including the pre-release Early Claims for Prison Leavers service whereby claims to Universal Credit are made and put into payment (including issuance of an advance payment) on the day of release

- Promote wider DWP offer to care leavers in receipt of benefits
- Raise the profile of partner organisations who offer employment, training and health support.

As a result of the workshop, a useful contacts document was produced for Leaving Care Personal Advisers to use to support care leavers in custody. Feedback has shown that the document has already helped PAs to identify, locate and request additional support for CEYPiC in prisons across the North-West.

Operation Inclusion

Youth Justice Service

Operation Inclusion is a deferred Prosecution Scheme championed by MVRP and developed in partnership with Merseyside Police and the 5 YJS's (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) in 2021. This year, MVRP have supported the YJS in all LAs to evidence its success in supporting young people entering the criminal justice system. Helping those young people who are known risks/involved in offending to continue their journey down a positive track.

Operation Inclusion had a focus of addressing offences that can be linked or associated with drug and violent crime, including Possession of a bladed Article, Possession of an Offensive Weapon, Possession with an Intent to Supply and an option to address the Rapid Escalation of Minor Offences.

Operation Inclusion works with children and their families/carers utilising diversion and support strategies to offer those who engage a chance to change their behaviour and if they complete their intervention, exit their YJS without a statutory criminal record. If a young person engaged in the programme commits a further offence, this is not seen as a reoffence following their completion of the programme. Between 2021 – 2024 only 19.7% of young people committed a further offence. According to a [Youth Justice Statistics](#) report, in England for 2023/24 the re-offending rate was 32.5%.



Strategic Themes

Whole Family Approach

We are focused on bridging the gaps between parents and children to prevent the impact of violence, putting targeted interventions in place to support and protect the children who are most at risk. This includes providing wraparound support for families where risk factors are identified based on their specific needs. This can involve support groups, coaching and mentoring and therapeutic care. This is all complemented by providing direct support for those children who are affected.

This year, through our programmes that have a focus on the whole family approach, 1,116 U25's were reached alongside their families. However, through several of our other programmes we know that a whole family approach is a key objective for them also. This means that the number of U25's and their families will be a lot higher.

Invisible Walls

Invisible Walls is based in HMP Altcourse, working with male prisoners and their families to build and/or maintain that family unit whilst they are away. They offer multiple sessions for dads in prison, such as family play, baby programme and stay and play. Stay and play includes four sessions for dads who have children aged 12 months to five years. Dads experience relaxing play sessions with their children in the visitor hall and children get to play freely with dad. Activities include art and crafts, imaginative play, reading stories and singing nursery rhymes. The family can eat a small snack together around a table, promoting family time.



"The programme has been something regular and consistent for us both to look forward to. We enjoyed the painting activities as he can take them home and put them in his room to remind him of me. I genuinely don't know what I would have done without the stay and play programme, and the other interventions invisible walls offers, it gives me a reason to get up of a morning, it's enabling us to continue to have a bond to see us through until I come home to him."

Dad, Stay and Play.

"This has had such a huge impact on us as a family, I have seen such a difference in them both and they count down the days until the next stay and play. Before my partner got on the family intervention wing, I could see their bond diminishing however since being moved both are so much happier and content."

Mum, Stay and Play

On top of all the great work that Invisible Walls is doing for dads in prison and their families, a relationship had been built with other services within the prison and a gap identified by Invisible Walls and the neurodiverse lead. Young people who are neurodiverse visiting their family member in prison can find it to be an overwhelming experience. A collaboration between the two services made adjustments to allow young people with neurodiversity to feel included and reduce stress in the prison environment to ensure that their visits still gave the opportunity to bond as a family unit.

Strategic Themes

Whole Family Approach

The below provides an insight into why Vinnie's Visits was created and how it works.

"We put a proposal together to hold a visit each week that mirrored one of our family day visits, but on a much smaller scale. We identified families that we thought would benefit from these quieter visits and one of the children was Vincent. Vincent has autism and is non-verbal, he did attend the daily visits but would become quite confused and upset when dad wouldn't interact with him in the way he expected. This would cause Vincent to become distressed, and he would run around the visitor hall. As dad was required to stay in his seat, it was left to mum to chase and catch Vincent and return him to their table. Mum had explained that she didn't get a quality visit, and she felt she was being looked at by the other families in the room and quite often she would leave before the visit was officially over. Dad said he felt guilty because he couldn't do anything to help, and it would cause a rift between them that could last a few days.

We removed the need to attend the visitor hall, and the families could enter the prison just before the visit, this was hugely helpful to one of the children in particular, as it was very difficult to entertain him for a whole hour before the visit.

We talked to security about clothing and searching and agreed a method that would be easier for the child but still meet the strict expectations of the prison. Just things like taking the child's jacket off before they enter the prison was a conversation between the family and us that made the experience much less traumatising for the child.

Over the past few months, we have provided an environment that has not only had a positive impact on the child, but on the family unit. To be in a room with people who understand that your child acts differently and not to be judged is a huge relief for the parents and it also means that the family can interact as they would in a play environment. It has been so nice to see the children grow in confidence and enjoy time with their dad. Vinnie's visit is a huge success, and this is due to the prison and family intervention lead working together with the focus being on the families that need a different approach to a normal situation."

YES Fund

This year the Arts Culture Sports fund had a change of name to the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES). This new fund, totalling £500,000, was run in collaboration with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and gave organisations the chance to bid for up to £25,000. A total of 183 organisations submitted a bid, with 30 organisations being successful.

The YES fund is focused on giving young people, in areas which have seen the highest levels of violence and the biggest cuts to youth services, access to better opportunities to prevent them getting involved in trouble. Over the next few pages are a few examples of some of our funded YES fund programmes.

The YES fund has been evaluated this year,

"Many young people spoke of how outcomes helped to reduce conflict, including physical activity and improved mental health. Whilst others cited the benefits of wellbeing and creative activities to support controlling emotions."





Waterloo hotshots – Sefton

The project has benefitted many children, delivering to a range of different people. In particular, Waterloo hotshots have helped a cohort of Ukrainian children who are in the country seeking asylum with their families.

Recently, they held an official LTA tennis tournament called 'Play your way to Wimbledon,' where junior players had the opportunity to compete locally with a view to playing at the most famous tennis venue in the world if they won. Three of the teenage Ukrainian children took part in this, thanks to the time they spent with the Waterloo hotshots in their YES-funded tennis camp last Summer, where they were first introduced to the sport.

"It was amazing to see them involved after their development in this way, especially because their families were there to cheer them on as well."

There have been many other underprivileged children that Waterloo hotshots have helped to get into the game. Tennis can be seen as a middle to upper class sport, Waterloo hotshots have been able to open up access with the funding provided to all young people, creating inclusivity and breaking down barriers.



Case Study

"When I moved to England from Ukraine due to the war, I was looking for ways to settle in and find a new passion. Tennis had always been something I dreamed of learning but never had the time or opportunity to pursue. That all changed when I found John, an incredible coach, and the welcoming tennis club that immediately made me feel at home."

From day one, the coaches made sure I felt comfortable and supported. The environment at the club is always friendly, and everyone is eager to help and guide you, whether you're a beginner or more advanced. Thanks to John's expertise, I've learned so much in just over a year. Not only have I gained tennis skills, but I've also met amazing people along the way and made lasting friendships."

The sense of community at the club is truly special. The atmosphere is warm and inclusive, and it's clear that everyone is there not just to play but to encourage each other and share their love for the game. This has had a significant impact on my health and overall well-being, both physically and mentally."

Looking ahead, I am excited to continue improving and hope to participate in tennis competitions in the future. I am incredibly grateful for everything I've experienced at the club and can't wait to see where this journey takes me."

People Empowered – St Helens

People Empowered CIC is a small not for profit organisation set up in 2021 to, as the name suggests, help empower people to improve their lives. They help people with strategies to manage challenging situations, mental well-being, confidence and self-esteem so that they build the tools and strategies to help improve their relationships, school/work life, home life and their reactions to challenges.

Their work predominantly is based in areas of St Helens that are in the bottom 1-10% of wards on the Government's Indices of Multiple Socio-economic Deprivation. They deliver diversionary activities for young people in Sports and in the Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Singing, Creative Writing, Graffiti Art and Art). They also deliver targeted interventions for those facing the greatest challenges; these interventions include small group workshops, mentoring and one-to-ones.

Through the YES funding, People Empowered were able to increase the number of individuals that accessed diversionary activities to over 800 young people and targeted interventions to over 100 young people last year!

Some of the young people have fed back that the support is not only life changing, but for them has been lifesaving.

"Surely our greatest achievement is to work with a young person to help them find the strength to move from thoughts of suicide, from surviving to thriving!"

"Thank you so much for the support, the impact of the £22,000 in funding was truly priceless to our young people and their families!"

People Empowered.

Case Study

(All identifiable information has been changed)

Sam is now 16 and in Year 11 at a High School servicing Prescot and Rainford.

Sam has recently moved to the town after having to relocate, Sam was witness to domestic abuse against dad by mum. There is a current court case for custody that has been brought by mum after her conviction, she still has access every other weekend. Sam has changed schools, moved town, and had to leave all his clubs and friends.

He was very emotional and lacking confidence, showing signs of anxiety when we met Sam back when he was 14. We have weekly-one hour mentoring and well-being sessions. We have listened to Sam and helped him manage his emotions and guilt surrounding the family situation. It took considerable time to help Sam to realise that the situation was not his fault, and that he does not have to fix the situation. We had to work with Sam to help him with strategies to manage his anxiety and stress in school.

Two years later and Sam is doing well, he manages his anxiety and has only had one wobble in the last 6 months. He is managing school and thriving in his new Tennis club. He is now making plans for his future. A big part of Sam's support has been building a relationship of trust with him, giving him some security and a consistent role model. Sam has been given breathing strategies to help manage his emotions around his anxiety. In 2023 Sam signed a professional Tennis contract, we are still working with Sam as he has had an injury and has been in Rehab for the last 18 months.



YES Fund

Sam's father Keith had this to say

"Phil has had a huge impact on Sam, if he's had a bad day or something's happened, I know I can rely on him to talk to Sam about it in a rational way and help him understand why he's feeling the way he is, but also how to deal with it in the future. He's kept notes and mind maps on his bedroom wall to remind him of things he's learnt, or things Phil has said and always comes home smiling after his sessions. He's definitely growing in confidence and can confidently talk to me about anxiety and breathing but more importantly tells me it's okay to cry! Something we as a family were conditioned to believe was not okay! I'll be forever grateful that Sam's had someone to trust and talk to when he's needed it most."

Sam's comments about the sessions

" Yes, it's made a big difference to my life, because I feel less anxious and more able to deal with things going on in my life. It's also good to have someone to talk to who I can trust and feel safe to talk to when sometimes lots is going on."



Utopia - Wirral

Utopia offers young people who are neurodivergent the opportunity to participate in 1-1 therapeutic and small group arts and sports activities to promote positive behaviours, develop a range of skills and reduce the risk of becoming involved in violence.

The 1-1 therapeutic support offers 11 hours per week of support, by a wellbeing mentor, to 36 young people to improve self-esteem and develop a range of skills such as communication, self-care, leadership and reflection in order to make more positive choices, at home, in school and in the community.

Utopia also provide sport and fitness activities to promote positive engagement in the community as well as an opportunity to build friendships and develop the strategies taught on the 1-1 programme. This was extremely successful with over 80 young people regularly attending the sessions with key highlights within the yoga group and an increasing youth offer to carry out multi sports at Utopias centre in Rock Ferry.

On the evening of Halloween period, Utopia supported 42 people over the course of the 'Halloween @ hatch' event. The event was a huge success and provided a positive environment for young people with additional needs and their families to enjoy a safe, fun and engaging party. Young people and their families took part in a range of different activities at their own pace including a witch hunt, guess what's in the slime, spider activity, knock down the zombies and many more. All activities allowed the young people to win sweets for their party bags and encouraged them to have fun. At the event there was party food, fancy dress and a quiet space for young people to use to regulate emotionally, alongside a movement room for an alternative form of regulation for the young people. Parents fed back it was a help with increasing costs of their household, and also helped to reduce barriers and led to improved engagement in the event.

Utopia encourage and have support from local people within the community who are willing to volunteer to support the service users. Training is provided covering; interventions, approach, safeguarding and procedures alongside supporting volunteers to understand neurodiversity and specific strategies for support. In total there have been 33 volunteers trained who were then able to support 64 young people through online therapeutic interventions. Many of these volunteers are still volunteering and continue to support young people beyond the life of the grant.

Case Study

"Young person has regular emotional outbursts, these can result from a dislike of certain clothes, not wanting to go to school even though they have good friendships and relationships with teachers. They have high levels of anxiety and have received around 6 sessions of support from Wirral MHST. They have been taught some techniques to use (high 5 breathing) but cannot control their emotions at the minute when they need to use them. Their behaviour at home has been becoming more aggressive and we struggle to help them in the moment.

They have attended 8 weekly sessions, completing the Primal programme with the support of a mentor. They covered the following topics during their sessions: Improving Self-esteem, Managing Anger, Reducing Worries and Anxiety.



YES Fund

They were enthusiastic and open to learning about their thoughts and emotions. They always practiced what they learnt during sessions at home between sessions. Alongside the 1-1 therapeutic intervention they attended 6 sessions of fitness at a multi sports club and continue to attend the sports club each week.

They have an improved self-assessment wellbeing score of 47% over our core themes of reflective behaviour, relationships, emotions, self-esteem, thoughts and anxiety. They were able to reflect on and share the improvements they were experiencing in the areas they had identified as needing support in. The young person and their parents also reported that they had improved behaviour in school and at home."

Feedback from the above young person:

What have you enjoyed the most about your sessions?

"Everything, it was great."

What have you found the most useful and will take away?

"The anxiety one, it really helped."

"They enjoyed coming to every session. Although they wouldn't always elaborate on their sessions, they said they got something from every week. We noticed their behaviour changing slowly - they would prepare themselves for school the night before, they would ask for space when they were feeling overwhelmed. The changes were small, but it was clear that they were thinking back to their sessions when they needed a strategy. Overall, they can explain what is happening in their body when they feel stressed or anxious. They still need prompts to remember how to move through that or to acknowledge what the feeling is, but having the booklet at home with us is a great tool to go back to. John is better able to see the impact of their behaviours and will listen when prompted to move to a space where they can gather their emotions and self-regulate. Before hatch, they saw this as a punishment not an opportunity to calm."

Mum's feedback



Community Safety Partnership

Be the Change – Knowsley

'Be the Change' in Knowsley launched during this financial year. The project was created to educate and support women and girls to recognise and reduce the attraction of becoming involved with individuals and groups connected with serious and organised crime. It works by promoting healthy relationships and highlighting the consequences of becoming involved in those relationships both personally, to their families and to the wider communities. By utilising a preventative approach, Be the Change works intensively with targeted groups, primarily young females aged 11-18.

The five overarching objectives include:

- Preventing young females in Knowsley drawn to the world/ individuals involved in serious and organised crime
- Reducing the interest shown by young females towards Serious and Organised Crime
- Highlighting the consequences of Serious and Organised Crime
- Reducing unhealthy and risky relationships
- Increasing confidence of young females to report intelligence particularly in relation to weapons such as guns and knives

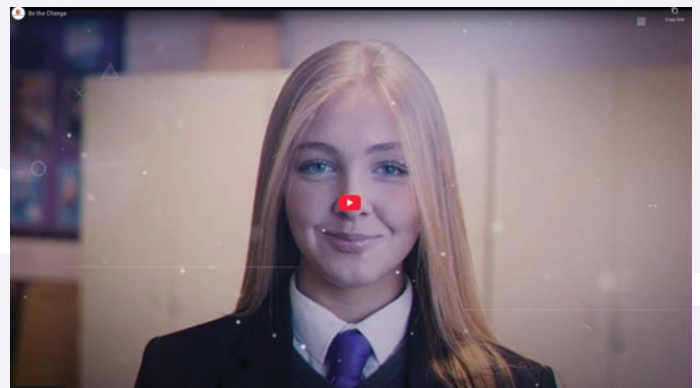
The programme activities within Be the Change include:

- **Boxing, Physical Fitness and Mentoring**
4,800 young people were engaged
- **Performing Arts Programme**
750 young people were engaged
- **Expectant and New Mum and Baby Group**
240 women were engaged with across the programme from the Kirkby area
- **Be The Change School Work**
154 Young Females engaged with the programme

Impacts:

- Participants reported increased confidence, improved knowledge about the risks associated with negative influences, and a greater sense of hope and ambition.
- A video has been created which highlights the impact on the service users from the service users themselves, stakeholders and service providers.

<https://youtu.be/QJKFrMWhvKI>



Community Safety Partnership

Youth Works, LFC Foundation - Liverpool

Through the Youth Works apprenticeship run by the LFC Foundation, MVRP funded 2 out of 8 new youth work apprentices who have been trained to specialise in violence prevention. The modules included 'Working with young people to reduce involvement in and the impact of youth violence, criminal activities and exploitation' and 'Working with behaviour that challenges in youth work settings'.

This apprenticeship is about building high quality youth workers who can deliver on children and young peoples' asks to support reducing risks to them across all levels of the socio-economic model of risk for violence. They work in a supporting role with young people aged 11-25 to promote their personal, social and educational development. One of the core values of youth work is that their work is directed with and for the young people they support. The apprenticeship will teach them these values and enable them to practice the essential principles of co-production, co-design and co-evaluation in their placements.

Key achievements:

- During their training the apprentices led their own sessions and gained professional development
- Youth work, activities and programmes were embedded into communities in areas where gaps were identified, especially in areas where issues such as mental health, low self-esteem and social exclusion were apparent
- An ongoing youth service within the city, delivered through a variety of organisations
- Additional support and positive role models
- Increase in volume of youth activities due to additional capacity within youth and community organisations within the City

Impact:

- For the apprentices:
 - Supported to achieve a formal qualification that will equip them for future work opportunities and progression, including the possibility of progression to Degree level qualifications in youth work
 - Exposed to a range of working environments, including informal, formal, educational and many more
- For the young people that have been supported by youth workers, the project provides:
 - Improved mental and physical health
 - A feeling of safety when attending sessions
 - Feeling more confident and positive about the future
 - Feeling welcome, included, and safe in the environment



Community Safety Partnership

Youth Works, LFC Foundation Case Study

Case Study: Youth and junior nights.

"The Youth Provision team has significantly grown our evening projects over the previous six months. Despite providing a supporting role in programmes when I first began my apprenticeship, this project was an opportunity for me to take the lead in sessions and gain a greater understanding of my purpose within the team.

"For example, in April I had my quality assurance assessment, where I was asked to deliver a 10-minute ice-breaker to the group at the beginning of the session, however, I decided to get out of my comfort zone and create a session plan to deliver a whole session focused on healthy relationships. This significantly enhanced my confidence as I was able to recognise my abilities.

"Furthermore, we have begun to share the responsibilities between the team of planning and leading sessions, which has allowed me to gain more experience and put my theory into practice. The team and I have continued to get creative and provide fun and engaging activities which has led to an increase in local participation.

"In half-term, we were able to take the young people on trips to the Albert Dock Water Sports Centre and Ninja Warrior, Crocky Trail, bowling, and laser tag. In addition to this, we carried out cooking sessions to promote healthy eating and provide opportunities for young people to develop their skills and grow their independence.

"We also organised a social action day, as the young people felt passionate about creating positive change in the community and recognised the environment needed their help, therefore we completed a litter pick in the local area. This supported youth-led decision-making and participation as the young people previously created a poster of the activities they would like to engage in, in the future."

Youth Worker Apprentice.



Neurodiversity

MVRP, in collaboration with the Serious Violence Duty, commissioned a delivery provider to develop a suite of assets for professionals and communities which provide easy access to early help and support where there is a concern that a young adult at risk of, or already involved in, serious violence, may be neurodiverse or have a neurodevelopmental need.

A comprehensive suite of 84 resources - developed by Sinclair-Strong Consultants and Making Space - now supports professionals working with neurodiverse young adults in custody and probation settings. These include therapeutic worksheets, easy-read guides, and one-to-one tools co-produced with those with lived experience.

Strong engagement has been achieved across prison and probation sites (e.g., HMP Liverpool, Altcourse, and Styal), creating continuity of care and improving understanding of service user needs. Collaboration with national experts and organisations such as the National Autistic Society (NAS) and national Association of People Abused in Childhood strengthens the programme's evidence base.

Key achievements:

- There has been targeted engagement, including the design of specific therapeutic worksheets and easy read documents to help facilitate one-on-one discussions with offenders and navigating the CJS, whether in prison, probation settings or within custodial environments.
- Strong engagement has been established with HMP Liverpool, HMP Altcourse, HMP Styal and South Liverpool Probation Centre, ensuring a single point of contact for each stakeholder to ensure continuity and to better understand the unique needs of each service.
- Ongoing collaboration with external Neurodiversity experts and professionals, including representatives from NAS and NAPAC and key stakeholder professionals such as Kevin Berry, Heidi Price, Rachel Stanton and Karen Cooper.
- Positive engagement from people with lived experience who are currently involved with the CJS, including inmates of HMP Altcourse and people on probation.

Impact:

- Stakeholder Engagement: Stakeholders have demonstrated significant interest and a willingness to provide feedback and recommendations. This has facilitated trust-building and deeper discussions on wider systemic issues in making the CJS and its processes more neuroinclusive. CJS Neurodiversity Leads have collated and provided specific feedback and recommendations which have been overwhelmingly positive, and recommendations have been applied directly to the assets.
- Resource Development: As engagement has become more established, the project has uncovered new trends and identified improvements required, initiating the development of additional resources.

- Expanding Partnerships: Continued collaboration with additional experts and institutions to enhance the resources and maintain co-production. Current engagement with NAPAC – will further develop training and development approach to include trauma informed approaches amongst neurodivergent individuals.
- Lived Experience: Co-production with stakeholders allowed the team to engage with neurodiverse populations within the CJS, ensuring that the resources have been co-produced with people with lived experience.

Funding has been allocated to sustain the neurodiversity project to ensure project success is not isolated within a vacuum. At high-level, sustained funding will be utilised to:

- Embed and develop assets, providing ongoing support and capacity building for services, ensuring resources are refined in real time to enhance usability, reach, and impact. This will involve regular information and advice sharing sessions.
- Undertake short and long-term impact assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of the asset application through ongoing co-production and co-design methodology.
- Develop and deliver bespoke training and workshops to partners to optimise asset application and strengthen awareness, understanding, and practical application.
- Wider stakeholder engagement with both local and national partners to support early intervention and prevention, including working closely with the health sector and local authorities to ensure activities complement existing statutory requirements. There will be a strong focus on engaging with the women's estate to support the women in the CJS portfolio.
- Partner with local universities to develop empirical evaluation to add further strength to assets and provide a sustainable, legacy product for ongoing use beyond the life cycle of the programme to improve wider system outcomes.

By implementing these resources effectively, the project aims to:

- Reduce reoffending rates.
- Enhance rehabilitation efforts within probation and custodial settings.
- Generate long-term savings for the CJS by reducing the costs associated with repeated offences and incarceration.
- Provide a one-stop system for a range of resources to meet the needs of individual CJS services.
- Promote early intervention across the integrated care landscape by partners implementing statutory requirements where possible and supporting the partnership in reducing the numbers flowing into the CJS where this can be avoided by early identification and building the right support.
- Develop research, understanding and knowledge – promoting insight into current unknown variables linked to risk and serious crime behaviours.

Serious Violence Duty

MVRP are proud supporters of the Serious Violence Duty, working both closely with the partners involved and supporting funding to their initiatives.

Led by Merseyside PCC Emily Spurrell, the Together As One campaign follows on from the launch of the Serious Violence Duty in 2023, which placed a statutory responsibility on organisations to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Together As One is a multi-agency campaign, demonstrating the vast array of work that is being carried out by a diverse range of individuals and groups who are united in a common goal to show that Merseyside will not and does not tolerate serious violence. As well as highlighting the measures these organisations and public services are taking to tackle serious violence in Merseyside, the campaign is also an opportunity to showcase some of the brilliant projects and initiatives, and the amazing people behind them, who are changing things for the better.

The campaign has exemplified effective system wide co-production, from creative development through to delivery. Despite limited burdens funding, partners have demonstrated a mature, coordinated approach by pooling resources and expertise, ensuring that communities are not only consulted but are leading on key elements of delivery.

The campaign reflects a shift towards sustainable, community-led solutions that build resilience, strengthen collaboration, and enhance system responsiveness to serious violence. Over the last 12 months, the partnership has collaborated on co-producing localised campaign assets with input from statutory partners, third sector organisations, and community representatives, including those with lived experience.

The campaign development has involved consistent engagement, demonstrating how co-production can be operationalised across agencies and geographies. While the launch was delayed due to a critical incident in Southport, this allowed for a responsive redesign that aligned more closely with the current community climate, further reinforcing the partnership's agility and commitment to doing things 'with' rather than 'to' communities.

Funding contributions from MVRP and Merseyside Police reflect strong collective ownership of outcomes. Community voice was actively sought throughout the development process to ensure campaign messaging resonated with target populations. Engagement with service user forums, community groups, and young people has ensured that the campaign responds to lived experience, fostering greater trust and ensuring messaging is relevant and impactful. This work is helping to close the gap between perceived need and system response.

As part of the campaign development and launch, there has been a key focus on collaborating with locally funded organisations to ensure that the campaign is led by communities for communities. A successfully funded Youth Empowerment Scheme intervention, funded by the MVRP and PCC, has been committed to design and install a mural at a community centre to deliver anti-violence messaging focussed on a public health approach. This represents a creative, community-led intervention aligned with wider system aims. Involving young people in campaign delivery not only strengthens the legitimacy of the messaging but also offers opportunities for personal development, skill building, and improved relationships between communities and statutory partners.

Key preliminary campaign results:

- Value of over delivery: £13,331.00 (On a spend of £35,000, value delivered was £48,331).
- Digital 6 sheets displayed the campaign in close proximity to key postcode hotspots, with over 200,000 plays of various campaign artwork on rotation to increase awareness of the work underway to tackle serious violence.
- Supermarket screens showed the campaign in five key locations, with over 50,000 plays.
- High impact bus supersides covered depots with routes into the key postcode areas - each superside stayed up for an additional 30 days.
- Kiosks were planned in key hotspot areas - some are still live with each staying up for an additional 16 days.
- Spotify delivered a strong campaign, reaching 54,000 adults – as an awareness drive, the campaign also generated 657 clicks to the campaign website.
- Google display reached over 176,000 adults and generated 1,165 clicks.
- A content article went live on the Liverpool Echo on 10th March - and was then boosted out by social media and display. The article had just under 2000 views and over 2000 clicks.
- A wrap went live on the Metro on 10th March. Half pages in the Metro ran across 6 weeks with different artwork, allowing a partner focus artwork in each edition. An advertorial also ran in the Metro to further raise awareness of partnership working.

Evaluation

MVRP continued to engage with evaluation partners to ensure all work and programmes delivered and funded by the team are making an impact and can address any recommendations made. Evaluations provide an evidence base for the Partnership, our programmes and wider partners, by providing solid evidence to show what is working and how. This also supports sustainability to our programmes to continue, with evidence of their impact.

This year MVRP have funded 15 evaluations. 10 have been evaluated by external bodies (ERD Ltd, LjMU and Trueman Change), the remaining five have been evaluated by the programmes themselves, with nine having process evaluations, and six impact evaluations.

Once they have been published, all evaluations can be found on our website:

[Evaluation Reports - Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership](#)

Name of Intervention	Evaluation type	Evaluation conducted by
Ariel Trust	Process Evaluation	LjMU
Building Bonds and Attachments	Process Evaluation	BABS
Basketball and Coaching Provision	Process Evaluation	LjMU
Basketball Tournament	Process Evaluation	Toxteth El8te
Be the Change	Process Evaluation	Knowsley Council
Hospital Navigators	Impact Evaluation	LjMU
Invisible Walls	Process Evaluation	LjMU
Mentors in Violence Prevention	Impact Evaluation	LjMU
Neurodiversity – ADHD Foundation	Impact Evaluation	ADHD Foundation
Place Based Programme	Process Evaluation	LjMU
Trauma Informed Practices Training	Impact Evaluation	MVRP/Trauma Lead
Whole family: Creating Communities	Impact Evaluation	Trueman Change
Whole Family: YPAS	Impact Evaluation	Trueman Change
Whole systems approach	Process Evaluation	LjMU
Youth Empowerment Scheme Fund	Process Evaluation	ERD Ltd.



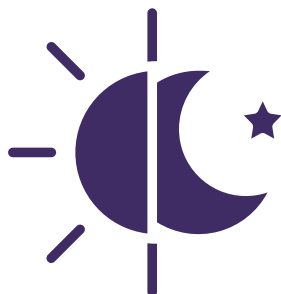
Merseyside Violence and Community Safety Survey

Funded by the MVRP, Liverpool John Moores University has conducted a representative household perception survey, providing a vast range of insights into the experiences and perceptions of violence and community safety across Merseyside.

The infographic below provides an understanding of those who responded, those who had been a victim of violence and further evidence of risk factors for violence victimisation, feelings of unsafety and locations, community cohesion and views on being a bystander.

In total, 5,395 individuals responded to the survey across Merseyside, with all responders aged 18 and over. These reports can be accessed through [Reports - Public Health Institute | Liverpool John Moores University](#)

Merseyside Violence & Community Safety Survey



64.7% **42.9%**
Felt Safe

34.8% thought violence was common in their neighbourhood.

86.3% thought violence was common in Merseyside generally.



32.9% of survey respondents had been a victim of violence since the age of 18.

Liverpool (33.4%) and Wirral (39.4%) reporting over Merseyside proportion.



4.5% of survey respondents had been a victim of violence in the past 12 months.

Liverpool (5.4%) and Wirral (5%) above the Merseyside proportion.



23.9% had been a victim of physical violence since the age of 18 with most stating the offender as a stranger.



45.9%

Felt unsafe in their nearest park at night.



28.1%

Felt unsafe in their nearest town centre at night.



28%

Felt unsafe in Merseyside generally at night.



23.2%

Felt unsafe in pubs, bars and clubs at night.



21.1%

Felt unsafe on public transport or stations at night.



20.3%

Felt unsafe at taxi ranks at night.

13.9%

personally felt unsafe from violence in Merseyside.

42.7%

felt 10-17 year olds are unsafe from violence in Merseyside.

37.7%

felt 18-25 year olds are unsafe from violence in Merseyside.



Community Cohesion

- **75.5%** felt like they belonged in their neighbourhood
- **29.4%** believed they had a say in what goes on in their neighbourhood
- **75%** agreed they can get what they need in their neighbourhood



Bystander

- **84.3%** agreed they needed to set an example in their own behaviour for what they expect from others
- **47.1%** believed it was their responsibility to intervene in problematic situations
- **31.6%** believed there was no need to get involved in problematic situations

Adulthood victimisation and ACES



Individual

Arrested at any point in their lifetime: **2.9X**

Incarcerated at any point in their lifetime: **2.8X**

Has one Ace: **2.5X**

Has 2 to 3 ACEs **4.4X**

Has 4+ ACES: **9.7X**

Excluded from School up to the age of 18: **2.8X**



Close relationships

Does not feel close to adults they live with: **1.2X**

Does not feel close to relatives they do not live with: **1.3X**

Does not have close or good relationships: **1.4X**

No trusted adult support up to the age of 18: **2.1X**



Community

Low levels of overall neighbourhood cohesion: **1.2X**

Feel unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally: **2.1X**

Feel unsafe from violence in their neighbourhood: **3.0X**

Think violence is common in Merseyside generally: **1.0X**

Think violence is common in their Neighbourhood: **1.7X**

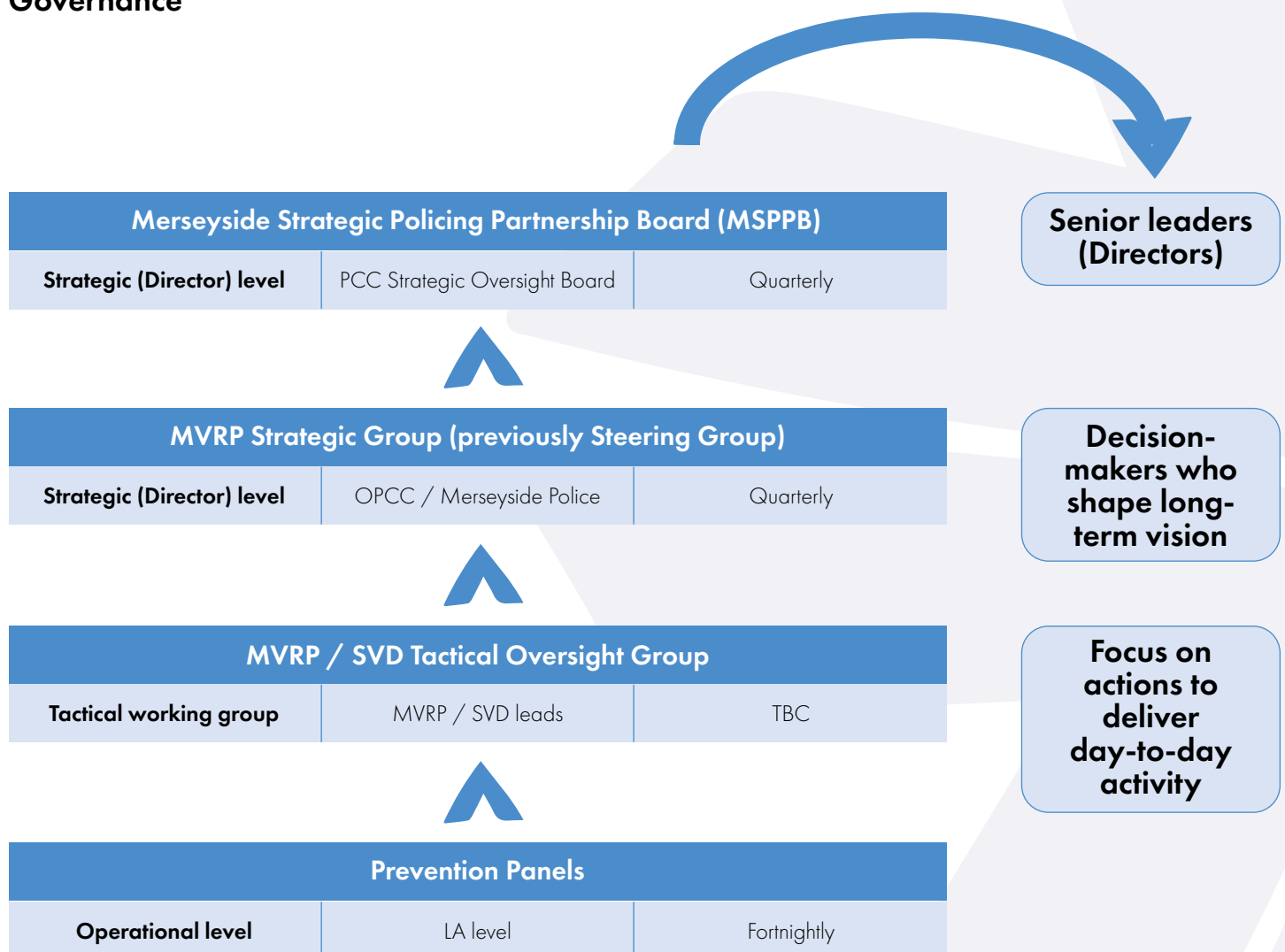
Governance

The Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provides oversight of the delivery of national strategies across Merseyside, whilst simultaneously maintaining a commitment to community safety. The PCC has full oversight of the MVRP, driven through her Merseyside Strategic Policing and Partnership Board (MSPPB) which brings senior leaders together to focus on key policing and community safety issues across Merseyside.

The Board acts as an oversight body for several existing sub-groups which focus on improving the effectiveness of the response to policing and community safety issues, including serious violence. The governance structure is set out below.

The MVRP Steering Group continue to support and challenge the core team to deliver against its key objectives. It is responsible for holding the head of the MVRP (Director) to account for delivery but also for providing both support and guidance, which is invaluable given the professional expertise across the membership.

Governance



Concluding remarks

Over the past five years, the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership has helped lead the way in reducing serious violence in our region.

As a result, we've seen the number of young people admitted to hospital with an injury caused by a knife or due to serious violence fall.

This is critical and hugely welcome. It is also testimony to the passion, energy and dedication of this team, a whole host of committed partners and our communities.

By bringing together professionals from such a wide range of sectors, this team is able to take a truly collegiate approach - sharing evidence, evaluation, research, funding and ideas and making ties between organisations and projects.

This was exemplified by the brilliant *Driving Change* conference held in January and further evidenced by the contents of this annual report.

Each of the innovative programmes detailed in this report are focused on investing in our young people, intervening early to prevent crime, and putting effective support in place for those who have suffered trauma or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Initiatives which the MVRP has trialled, tested and evaluated - so they can ensure precious resources are maximised, programmes are truly effective, and they have clear evidence of what works best to present to partners across our region.

By doing so, they are influencing and informing in a way that is changing outcomes.

The testimony from the young people and their families who benefit from these interventions is inspiring and it is always a privilege to see these programmes in action.

By taking a public health approach, they are changing perceptions and mindsets. The ripple effects of this are huge – preventing harm and improving the care and support for young people, their families and whole communities.

That's why I was honoured to present the team with my annual award at the Community First Awards recognising their achievements and also paying tribute to their hard work and professionalism.

As always, my sincere thanks go to the team for their efforts. I am committed to lobbying on behalf of this brilliant partnership to ensure it receives the long-term, sustained funding it needs to continue its vital work for years to come.

Emily Spurrell
Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner



Projects funded this year

Organisation	Programme Name	Description	Delivery Area
MFRS	Beacon	The project is 1 day per week for 6 weeks. The course is an alternative education, early intervention programme, which is designed to engage with children who meet specific criteria. The course provides opportunities for young people to fulfil their life chances away from the impact of violence and crime and give children who attend a different experience.	Pan Merseyside
MYA	Navigators	Case workers located in A&E departments and acute trauma wards, which have been identified via hospital admissions data as getting high numbers of U25 victims of knife or violent crime, to offer support to the young person.	Pan Merseyside
Crea8ing Communities	Whole Family Therapy	Supporting Families: Therapeutic Support for Children, Young People and Families with experiences of complex or developmental trauma – Reducing risk of experiencing violence or criminality.	Wirral
YPAS	Flourishing Families	Supporting Families: Therapeutic Support for Children, Young People and Families with experiences of complex or developmental trauma – Reducing risk of experiencing violence or criminality.	Liverpool
Mixed	Custody Navigators Pilot	Youth workers in a police custody setting engaging with 10–17-year-olds presenting in custody. Offering them support and guidance no matter their outcome in custody to prevent them from returning to custody.	Pan Merseyside (Pilot area in Sefton Custody Suite)
MVRP	Trauma Informed Training	Prevention and identification of trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Early intervention training for front line practitioners to receive training on Trauma Responsive Policing and Adverse Childhood Experiences.	Pan Merseyside
MVRP	YES	Early intervention through sport, art and culture: Commission sports clubs, art and culture to provide positive interventions for young people to reduce the potential for them to become isolated, exploited and end up involved in serious violence and associated harms.	Pan Merseyside
MYA	Mentors in Violence Prevention	Mentors in violence prevention (MVP) - programme whereby older pupils are identified and trained to become peer mentors for younger pupils. Key teachers are trained in programme. Role play allows students to construct and practice viable options in response to various scenarios. Programme explores personal responsibilities and develops skills and knowledge including a focus on gender related violence. Explores and teaches YP about the bystander approach.	Pan Merseyside
Ariel Trust	Violence Prevention Education	Development of a suite of resources for delivery in all primary education settings addressing key topics / issues (i.e. healthy relationships, preventing radicalisation, involvement in criminality, mental health, consent, communication)	Pan Merseyside
Time Matters UK	Time to Thrive	Provides support and community-based interventions for children, aged 5-18yrs, impacted by parental imprisonment. This project includes support groups and 1-2-1 mentoring, both face to face and online. Children are able to explore their feelings and emotions regarding parental imprisonment and work with a mentor to explore coping strategies. Mental health support is provided through group activities for children and their parents / carers, and these activities also building confidence, widen horizons and supports children to generate new and strengthen current relationships. Children are given the opportunity to be peer mentors and 'Changemakers' by attending conferences, contributing to podcasts or research to positive change. Time Matters UK have also created a toolbox of resources for children, parents, and practitioners to use, such as self-help books, children's stories about parental imprisonment, and are in the early stages of building an app for children with parents in custody.	Pan Merseyside
ADHD Foundation	ND Pilot	Promotes early identification and intervention for young children presenting with emerging characteristics of Neurodevelopmental conditions. Provides training to children's centre staff and parents to enhance play skills, meet other parents and build support networks, develop confidence in understanding neurodivergent conditions and for their child to have the opportunity to experience exciting activities that stimulate their sense holistically in a calm safe environment.	Pan Merseyside

Organisation	Programme Name	Description	Delivery Area
Mixed	Place based project - Sefton	Place-based project to address gaps in service, and to support Sefton LA to address their recommendations from their Ofsted rating report for early years.	Sefton
Mixed	Place based project - Liverpool	Place-based project to address gaps in service, and to support Liverpool LA to address their recommendations from their Ofsted rating report for early years.	Liverpool
Building Attachment and Bonds Service	BABS	This service supports babies and children, and their parents and carers to establish a healthy and supportive start in life, addresses the whole family approach and really focuses on the public health approach to reduce violence and risk factors for families.	St Helens
Healthy Stadia	Are you onside?	Additional support to violence against women and girls supports services in conjunction with voluntary sector service support. Education focus & therapeutic support and for those who require ongoing support.	Pan Merseyside
MFRS	Fire Champions	6-week sport programmes to support children physically whilst improving relationships with all four blue light emergency services and addressing key themes from fire and water safety, serious violence, hate crime and grooming to name a few.	Pan Merseyside
Sefton Council	Community Connectors	The Connectors intervene early with girls aged 8-15yrs who have early emotional wellbeing concerns and are at risk of future self-harm or suicide attempts, offending and child exploitation. The Connectors support girls and their families to develop coping strategies and engage in sessions to address poor mental health, healthy relationships and what child exploitation means and also to support engagement with school. There is further focus on family life at home particularly where Domestic Abuse is a concern.	Sefton
Youth Works	LFC Foundation	Training and development of up-and-coming youth workers in the Liverpool area. As well as educating apprentices, they also support young people in Liverpool through activities, resources, sign posting to lead positive lifestyles.	Liverpool
Children Centres Invisible walls	Altcourse Invisible Walls	Aimed at maintaining and improving relationships between male prisoners and their children/families, improving the quality of life, reducing re-offending by the prisoners, and reducing the risk of 'intergenerational' offending. It adopts a 'whole family' approach, providing support to prisoners, partners and children.	Pan Merseyside
Toxteth El8te	Midnight league	Basketball open sessions providing free, open access sport intervention, mentoring and social support.	Liverpool
Knowsley MBC	Be the Change Project	Educate and support women and girls to recognise and reduce the attraction of becoming involved with individuals and groups connected with serious and organised crime, promoting healthy relationships and highlighting the consequences of becoming involved in those relationships both personally, to their families and to the wider communities.	Knowsley
Wirral Council CSP	Sliding Doors Video	Short educational video that focuses on impact of 'sliding doors' moment, highlighting the impact that a single action can have on an individual's life.	Wirral
St Helens Council	Safer Transport Initiative	Visible guardianship at key times and locations to promote safer transport in the borough.	St Helens
HAF	Knowsley stalkers Gym	Multi-functional hub, integrating various services to support the physical, mental, and social well-being of the community. By combining fitness, wellness, mentoring, and performing arts, the project seeks to provide an inclusive environment where individuals can access resources that promote personal growth, empowerment, and community engagement.	Knowsley
HAF	Positive Pathways	To provide extra youth worker in Liverpool City Centre to engage and support young people.	Liverpool
HAF	St Helens Winter activities/ food programme	To support young people during the school holidays with winter activities and food programmes.	St Helens

Useful links

- Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership Website - [Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership \(merseysidevrp.com\)](https://merseysidevrp.com)
- Education resources from MVRP - Education Resources - [Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership \(merseysidevrp.com\)](https://merseysidevrp.com)
- Evaluation reports for MVRP programmes & Whole Systems Evaluation - [Evaluation Reports - Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership \(merseysidevrp.com\)](https://merseysidevrp.com)
- Trauma Informed Practice Resources - [Trauma Informed Practice - Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership \(merseysidevrp.com\)](https://merseysidevrp.com)
- National VRU evaluation (year ending March 2023) - [Violence Reduction Units 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- Serious Violence Duty - [Serious Violence Duty: Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner](#)
- Together As One campaign - [The campaign - Together As One](#)
- Serious Violent Asset Directory - [Serious Violence Asset Directory: Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner](#)