

Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Our ref: FOI 0008/24

Date: 17 April 2024

Name: Email:

Dear,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your freedom of information request received on 18 March 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to make an information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am interested in the following information:

- 1. Please confirm if the VRU has a detailed Theory of Change or Logic Model which underpins the Violence Reduction Programme. If yes, please provide:
- a. A copy of the Theory of Change and/or Detailed Logic Model or a link to where the Theory of Change is published.
- b. The date the Theory of Change was formally adopted by the VRU to underpin its Violence Reduction Programme.
- c. A summary of how the Theory of Change and Logic Model was developed.
- 2. When commissioning services for delivery to the VRU programme, please confirm whether the VRU routinely requests details of the Theory of Change/Logic Models from proposed commissioned providers. If yes, please provide copies of the Theory of Change documents/evidence provided by the last three service providers commissioned by the VRU.
- 3. Please confirm how often the VRU's Theory of Change has been formally evaluated by the VRU since 2018. Please confirm the dates of any evaluation(s) and a copy of (or link to) any evaluation reports or supporting documents.
- 4. Please confirm the level of funding received from the Home Office to support VRU activity since 2018.
- 5. Please confirm the number of commissioned services procured by the VRU each year since 2018.



6. For each year since 2018, please confirm how many of these individual commissioned services have been evaluated by the VRU or independently, over and above any overarching evaluation of VRU performance itself.

Your request for information has now been considered and the response can be found below:

- 1. Please confirm if the VRU has a detailed Theory of Change or Logic Model which underpins the Violence Reduction Programme. If yes, please provide:
 - a. A copy of the Theory of Change and/or Detailed Logic Model or a link to where the Theory of Change is published.

Section 21 – Information which is reasonably accessible.

The information requested is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than by response through Section 1 the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is an absolute and class-based exemption and, as such, I am not required to complete either a public interest or harm test on the issue of disclosure. The information which you have requested can be found on the Violence Reduction Network website using the following link:

<u>Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 2023 to 2028</u> (violencereductionnetwork.co.uk) (page 26)

b. The date the Theory of Change was formally adopted by the VRU to underpin its Violence Reduction Programme.

Document 1- We first adopted our programme-level Theory of Change in 2020 (first document) but then refreshed this in 2021/22 as the programme developed.

Document 2- Our current programme-level Theory of Change was adopted by the partnership on submission and publication of our most recent strategy (31st January 2024)

c. A summary of how the Theory of Change and Logic Model was developed.

Our strategy, and therefore Theory of Change, was co-produced with the VRN's core membership through a series of co-production exercises. Core members include: OPCC, Police, Health, Local Authorities, Fire & Rescue Service, Probation, Prisons, Public Health England (OHID), Community Safety Partnerships, Educational establishments, VCSOs, Community Groups.

The strategy and Theory of Change is formally signed off by our governance board (Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) Exec).



2. When commissioning services for delivery to the VRU programme, please confirm whether the VRU routinely requests details of the Theory of Change/Logic Models from proposed commissioned providers. If yes, please provide copies of the Theory of Change documents/evidence provided by the last three service providers commissioned by the VRU.

The VRN team develop Theories of Change at the point of designing and commissioning interventions. Please find the latest Theories of Change for the following commissioned interventions attached:

Document 3 - The Phoenix Programme (Delivery Partners: Leicestershire Police, the Probation Service, Leicester City Council – Youth Justice Service, Leicestershire County Council – Youth Justice Service and Ingeus – Community Navigators)

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The Reach Programme- Theory of Change can be found using the following link; <u>Microsoft Word - CleanCopy-Reach Report for proofing-234290.docx (youthendowmentfund.org.uk)</u> (page 122)

Document 4 - Violence Intervention Project - A&E and Custody (Delivery Partner: Turning Point).

3. Please confirm how often the VRU's Theory of Change has been formally evaluated by the VRU since 2018. Please confirm the dates of any evaluation(s) and a copy of (or link to) any evaluation reports or supporting documents.

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VRUs are subject to an annual evaluation commissioned by the Home Office. You can find the full reports here:

Year ending March 2021: <u>Violence reduction unit year ending March 2021 evaluation report -</u> GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Year ending March 2022: Violence Reduction Units, year ending March 2022 evaluation report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



We are currently awaiting the release of the report for 2022/23

4. Please confirm the level of funding received from the Home Office to support VRU activity since 2018.

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Information on funding for VRUs, and specifically Leicestershire, is publicly available and can be found via the following links:

2019/20 - Funding for Violence Reduction Units announced - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
2020/21: Additional £35 million for Violence Reduction Units - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
2021/22 - £35.5m to support young people at risk of involvement in serious violence - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2022/23 – 2024/25 – We received notification of a three-year funding allocation:

- 22/23 £1,414,226
- 23/24 £1,058,313
- 24/25 £1,047,170

We can confirm that we received all of the above allocated funding in full.

5. Please confirm the number of commissioned services procured by the VRU each year since 2018.

Commissioned Service	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
EngAge	Y				
Violence Intervention Project (A&E)	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y
Mentors in Violence Prevention		Υ	Y	Υ	Y
Unlocking Potential Project		Υ	Υ		
Early Intervention Service (formally the Community Resolution and Prevention Service)		Y	Y	Y	
Chance 2 Change			Υ	Υ	
Violence Intervention Project (Custody)			Υ	Υ	Y
Trauma-Informed Training				Υ	Y



The Reach Programme				Y	Y
The Phoenix Programme (Community Navigators)					Y
Total:	2	4	6	7	6

6. For each year since 2018, please confirm how many of these individual commissioned services have been evaluated by the VRU or independently, over and above any overarching evaluation of VRU performance itself.

Commission	2019/	2020/	2021/	2022/	2023/	Evaluation:
ed Service	20	21	22	23	24	
EngAge	Υ					
Violence	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Intervention						6e2bca 44d9fdd24e064ba2800dfcb538e39996.
Project (A&E)						pdf (violencereductionnetwork.co.uk)
Mentors in		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Violence						
Prevention						Evaluation planned for 2024/25
Unlocking		Υ	Υ			https://www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk/ file
Potential						s/ugd/6e2bca fc4bed2a5f4442bba611118d7e37
Project						4973.pdf
Early		Υ	Υ	Υ		
Intervention						
Service						
(formally						
known as the						
Community						
Resolution						
and						https://www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk/ file
Prevention						s/ugd/6e2bca_7855900873ac4e488a54177e733
Service)						<u>cfaca.pdf</u>
Chance 2			Υ	Υ		
Change						De-commissioned
Violence			Υ	Υ	Υ	
Intervention						
Project						6e2bca 44d9fdd24e064ba2800dfcb538e39996.
(Custody)						pdf (violencereductionnetwork.co.uk)
Trauma-				Υ	Υ	
Informed						
Training						T. D. I.D. IV. #.E. I.
The Reach				Υ	Υ	The Reach Programme Youth Endowment
Programme						<u>Fund</u>



The Phoenix					Υ	
Programme						
(Community						
Navigators)						Currently being evaluated - ongoing
Total:	2	4	6	7	6	

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner provides you the right to ask for a reexamination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Data Protection Officer at the above address or emailed to OPCC@leics.police.uk. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Police and Crime Commissioner's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

In complying with our statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law.

Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to The Office of the PCC, Leicestershire Police Headquarters, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicester LE19 2BX.

Long term Impacts Rationale for VRN **Activities Outputs Short/Intermediate Outcomes** Reduction in rates Tackling violent crime is national Interventions and Services Project Data collected on the number of YOUNG PEOPLE referrals received, sessions and frequency of priority and the UK Government has Community Resolutions Project Leicester City Behaviour: Youth Offending Service (10 to 18 year olds) delivered, and referrals to partner provided funding to 18 PCCs in the Increase in YP engaging in diversionary approaches serious vouth Engage (18 to 25 year olds) agencies Positive changes in risk factors (e.g. substance misuse, areas worst affected by violent crime violence Mentors in Violence Project (Children in Demographics of young people gang affiliation, NEET) (based solely on A&E admissions) to set Increase in protective factors (e.g. secured Data on risk factors collected via secondary school) up Violence Reduction Units Reduction in child employment, stable accommodation, engaged in Unlocking Potential Leicestershire Cares (16 to pre , post and follow up criminal exploitation education or training) assessments 25 year olds) In 2019 Leicestershire recorded its Attitude/knowledge: Violence intervention project Turning Point Safety/work plans and educational highest rate of knife crime in a decade Increase in life aspirations materials for young people (11 to 25 year olds) Increased awareness of how and where to access New models of support support in relation to education and training, Reduction in Suspected and convicted perpetrators employment, finance, health and wellbeing violence related under 25 were responsible for 24% of Community Development and Involvement More informed idea about what they want out of life admissions to A&E Number of grants provided for local serious and violent offences across LLR and how this can be achieved projects in 2018/19. Males aged between 15 19 Skills: Provide small grants for community based Number of interventions developed Improved confidence and communication skills years are most at risk group and organisations in priority areas in by local projects Improved life skills (e.g. living independently, finance, partnership with the OPCC Number of young people mentored mental and physical health) Risk factors related to violence include Provide grantees with community mentoring by local projects Improved job searching, application and interviewing adverse childhood experiences, and development opportunities Number of people exposed to the deprivation, low school attendance Design and deliver community leadership leadership and development learning and development programme and exclusions, neuro development programme and rates of attendance Administer community perception surveys conditions, substance misuse, A new community leadership and COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS unemployment and early involvement development programme Increase in number and types of organisations in the CJS undertaking early intervention work Leadership and Cultural Change Project: Increased capacity within local groups and organisation Develop workforce strategy and practice New training materials, workforce Evidence suggests that certain Improved funding applications and ability to standards for trauma informed practice strategy and toolkit approaches show promise in demonstrate outcomes and impact of work Deliver ACE and trauma informed practice (TIP) New network of professionals who Increased understanding of serious young violence, ACE preventing youth violence such as foundation training, and train the trainers and TIP, and confidence in adopting new approaches can deliver training in LLR mentoring, diversionary activities, course for 12 local trainers Improved understanding of and engagement with the Number of training sessions employment programmes and gang Produce resource toolkit delivered and attendance focuses strategies Facilitate multi agency learning and Greater use of educational resources and confidence in Pre and post training surveys development activity to improve contextual delivering preventative work Number of times resource toolkit System wide and strategic leadership is safeguarding practice and training materials accessed Support partners to strengthen their violence needed to facilitate a more effective New violence prevention strategies prevention offer and sustainable response to serious PARTNER AGENCIES AND PROFESSIONALS and services Positive system and youth violence across LLR Increase in the number of professionals in LLR who cultural change in engage with training on ACE, TIP and safeguarding **Data and Evaluation Project:** LLR Increased awareness and use of resource toolkit Information sharing agreements with Identify key local data sources to improve Greater awareness of workforce strategy and practice partner agencies understanding of serious youth violence Inputs standards amongst professionals in LLR Establish information sharing agreements New data hub and dashboard Increased knowledge of ACE and TIP, and confidence in Build a multi agency data hub to inform violence accessible to partner agencies Public sector adopting new approaches prevention policy and practice in LLR New community and youth savings Improved understanding of and engagement with the Funding from the Home Office perception surveys and annual data Create community and youth perception surveys Briefing reports on youth violence More sustainable, evidence based and inter connected OPCC/Leicestershire Police infrastructure violence prevention services across LLR Communication and Campaigns Project: Staff secondments Membership list of VRN board, Extend the reach and memberships of the delivery group and community WIDER COMMUNITY Violence Reduction Network in LLR Violence Reduction Board Increased interaction with and understanding of the VRN panels Organise and co deliver VRN events and (e.g. visitors to website, followers, views of films, toolkit A communication plan conferences for different groups downloads) Number and types of Serious Violence Delivery Group Identify and make use of different media Greater cohesion Increased community presence at events and events/conferences, and feedback channels to promote the work of the VRN within LLR conferences organised by the VRN Number of social media followers, **Develop educational materials Community Panels** Increased knowledge of SYV and support services engagements with posts and visitors Design a bystander campaign around Child to the VRN website Criminal Exploitation

New educational resources and

campaign materials

Run campaigns focusing on the social norms

we wish to see in relation to youth violence

In kind contribution from agencies to

develop own violence prevention offer

Increase in the number of referrals to interventions and

applications to the small grant scheme

Increased feelings of safety

RATIONALE ACTIVITIES OUTPUTS OUTCOMES IMPACTS LEADERSHIP & CULTURAL CHANGE Tackling violent crime is a national **LEADERSHIP & CULTURAL CHANGE** Whole systems approach STRATEGIC/OPERATIONAL Update Response Strategy and develop priority. UK Government has adopted and sustained Response Strategy and sustainability Strateaic sustainability plan with Core Membership provided funding to the areas worst through: organisational plan owned by Core Membership Int SNA and dashboard enables a Strengthen organisational, sector and CSP affected by SV to set up VRUs cultural change and effective Co owned sustainability plan focused, data driven and whole responses in line with VRN Framework In LLR. SV offences increased multi agency working Organisational and CSP plans systems Response Strategy • Implement TIP strategy and deliver training significantly from 2015-2019. Males LLR TIP strategy and training package Int Increased awareness of partners under 25 are most at risk of • Cascade knowledge across the Network • Partners/professionals have the roles, gaps and duplication in system committing and becoming a victim • Deliver campaigns aimed at promoting Reductions in Serious knowledge/support to implement Int/Lt Partners/professionals buy in Violence of SV positive social norms evidence based approaches - 1 to TIP and CS, and orgs embed TIP/CS Home Office measures: • Risk factors related to SV include Campaigns and resources activity (especially those under 25) ACEs, low school attendance and **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & ENFORCEMENT** Int Partners/CSP ready for SVD Reduction in hospital exclusions, substance misuse, and Establish multi agency problem solving forum Lt Partners support the cultural and admissions for assaults unemployment. Intervening early **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & ENFORCEMENT** financial sustainability of the VRN to manage at risk' YP with a knife or sharp object can prevent future involvement • Multi agency problem solving forum **Operational** • Co ordinate prevention activity in NTE • Reduction in (police · Local evaluation and academic • At risk / high harm young people Int Partners/professionals understand • Develop a new custody based intervention recorded) knife enabled evidence shows that certain receive timely and appropriate support how their role contributes to the Implement data driven hotspot policing serious violence approaches show promise in • Police informed hotspots operations **Response Strategy** Review OM of violent offenders (IOM) preventing SV such as diversionary · Reduction in all non • Understanding of SV in the NTE Int/Lt Improved understanding and activities. ETE support, whole domestic homicides (Home • Agreed model for OM of violent increased use of evidence/evaluation Office Index) family approaches and responsive, DATA SHARING. EVIDENCE & EVALUATION offenders Int/Lt Partners/professionals trauma-informed one to one Additional measures Access and analyse priority datasets understand and are better able to • Reductions in police support • Update Strategic Needs Assessment respond to individual/local needs recorded public place Professionals need to be equipped **DATA SHARING, EVIDENCE & EVALUATION** Further develop internal police dashboard Lt Increased efficiency and with knowledge of ACES, trauma violence overall and SNA evidences drivers and risk factors • Develop external dashboard for partners effectiveness of interventions, partners informed practice (TIP), contextual specifically: New dashboards including injury surveillance and community organisations safeguarding (CS) and 'what works' ➤ Violence with injury At risk cohorts identified • Conduct internal evaluation and commission to provide effective support ➢ Robberv Data informed operations external impact evaluation > Knife enabled SV 11111 · Lack of understanding of what is Data sharing agreements in place Conduct Community and YP Safety Surveys YOUNG PEOPLE/COMMUNITIES being delivered by partners to Partners use data/analysis to inform Young People prevent SV and whether effective approach Int Successful identification (referrals) Understanding of community Improved life outcomes for Partners/professionals are not **PREVENTION** and engagement of those at risk young people effectively using or sharing data perceptions • Support existing VRN interventions: Int Underlying risk factors are Understanding of what interventions locally · Improved engagement at Community Resolution and Prevention supported/addressed work best and for whom school and fewer System-wide and strategic ŀ Service, MVP, Unlocking Potential, Violence Int/Lt Improved access to local leadership is needed to facilitate expulsions Intervention Project (hospital based) services for support more effective and sustainable • Improved employment • Develop Provider Network for interventions Lt Diverted away from crime/violence **PREVENTION** responses to SV across LLR prospects • Develop new evidence based interventions Lt Reduced reoffending · Evidence informed interventions and Improved mental and (e.g. Reach Programme HO/YEF funded) **Communities** understanding of who accesses them physical health YP and community involvement (e.g. Int Improved understanding of VRN • Number of at risk young people • Improved accommodation **INPUTS** Leadership Programme, VR Board, campaign) and partners, and increased receiving appropriate support Reduced substance misuse opportunity to influence decision Support community organisations through Young people and communities • £880.000 from the Home Office workforce development making influence direction of the VRN VRN governance including the: • Work with partners to develop preventative Int Community Leaders understand Young people and · Community organisations have the Core Membership/VR Board and are better able to respond to activity across the following priorities: communities feel safer understanding and resources to ➤ Serious Violence Delivery Group individual/community needs Education, Youth work & Diversion, respond to serious violence Perceptions of community Community Panels Lt Activity of VRN and partners better Parenting & Families, Health ы New activity/services across priority ➤ Central Delivery Team reflects community needs areas of prevention Trust in VRN and partners Provider Network FEEDBACK LOOP · Data from SNA and evidence from

• Increased vulnerability of children and young people as a result of Covid-19 including increased unemployment, mental ill health and substance misuse amongst under 25s

• Short term contracts in VRN and in VRN-funded interventions lead to high turnover of staff. Additional resource needed to delivery HO/YEF-funded SYV interventions

• New Police and Crime Commissioner elected. Leicestershire Police receive GRIP funding focused on driving forward operational responses to serious violence

Local, regional and national policy/activity targeting the drivers of serious violence (e.g. county lines, drugs and theft)

Enactment of the Serious Violence Duty places legal duty on local partners to share data to understand and respond to serious violence

• Impact of Covid-19 on crime/violence and on service delivery to identify/engage those at risk and deliver support. Additional restrictions imposed on Leicester for most of 2020

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

local evaluation

· Existing multi-agency partnerships,

In-kind contribution from agencies

to develop own violence prevention offer

interventions and strategies/policy

The Phoenix Programme – Theory of Change

- High proportion of serious violence has a group dynamic county line gangs and OCGs are attributed, in part, to driving increase in serious violence (Crest, 2020; Coomber & Moyle, 2017). Boundaries between gangs and organised crime is increasingly blurred (McLean et al., 2019)
- Gangs involved in drug dealing are more likely to carry weapons meaning that conflict is likely to result in a more serious outcome (UK Gov, 2018; Brennan & Moore, 2009).
- Those involved in gangs have often experienced ACEs and trauma, and face layers of disadvantage (McVie, 2010)
- Research suggests focused deterrence (FD) could have a high impact on reducing serious violence (YEF, 2021)
- Evidence suggests that effective FD approaches are those which are adapted to fit their local context (YEF, 2021)
- FD approaches provide immediate, tangible and culturally appropriate support services to C&YAS who have not had access/disengaged with services, a special and swift enforcement operation and involve the community in design and delivery of the model

Evidence based assumption

- Nationally, LLR has the fourth highest rate of violence with injury
- Rates of SV in 21/22 will breach levels seen prior to the pandemic
- The local rise in SV is directly linked to a group dynamic involving three inter-connected parts: members of OCG, a USG and network of criminally active young people.
- A third of public place homicides (21-22) have been linked to this cohort
- Based upon police data and intel (which is unlikely to capture for scale of involvement in serious violence), the cohort has been involved in more than 300 occurrences of violence with injury, more than 300 occurrences of robbery of personal property, and 13 occurrences of attempt murder.
- Data shows cohort live in challenging circumstances with layers of vulnerability (e.g. ACEs and trauma, domestic violence, exclusions, substance misuse, live in urban areas with high social deprivation and crime)

Evidence based local need

- Cohort of between 375-450 children and young adults including:
- ➤ Influential group members (OCG and USG members) heavily involved in SV and drug supply
- ➤ Network of criminally active young people regularly interacting with the influential members through the commission of SV and associated offences
- Predominantly males from an ethnic minority background who reside and offend in East Leicester
- 19% are between the ages of 14-18, 53% are 19-25 years old, and 28% are 26+
- The cohort are connected by culture, norms, place, peer, family relationships and offending

Evidence based

INITIAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Transparent and regular communication with local communities through variety of channels. Initial engagement with eligible C&YAs led by support partner includes family for U18s and call-ins for YAs. Emphasise support available but transparent about enforcement consequences if offending continues

SERVICE DELIVERY:

Support Component – 6 month (min) programme of intensive, tailored and trauma-informed support which both directly delivers interventions and services and coordinates a wider menu of 'premium service' support from the 'team around the team' to address individual, relationship, community and societal factors. Includes allocation of lead worker and community navigator, individual capital focussed interventions (e.g. ETE, social and living skills, trauma support), social capital focused interventions (e.g. job opportunities, housing, family support, pro-social activities), practical and emotional support and a transition plan.

Community Component – Led by community partners who will facilitate continuous community-based support to assist in replacing criminal networks with more positive and sustainable social networks. Includes community navigators/coaches support to build positive networks and increase social capital, community-based opportunities (e.g. sports, faith groups), informal community mentors, community support package as part of transition plan when exits

Enforcement Component – led by police. Dedicated enforcement activity which is age-appropriate and both proportionate and responsive to levels and seriousness of criminality. Includes planned enforcement/disruption activity if cohort refuses to engage and/or risk and criminality persists. Ongoing deployment of enforcement and engagement activity (e.g. visits, civil/criminal, pro-active policing)

Intervention

Agencies

- Improved understanding of system and pathways of support, agency roles, and needs of C&YAs
- Adoption of shared principles, processes and training across agencies
- Increased engagement between agencies, VCSOs and communities
- Increased data sharing
- Improved understanding of how to prevent discrimination in the project

Agencies

- Increased and sustained engagement from those C&YAs, and families who commonly do not access or disengage
- Increased referrals within and between agencies, VCSOs and community groups
- Increased use of data, intelligence and insights,
- More effective and efficient agency collaboration

Agencies

- Increased involvement of communities in the design, delivery and evaluation across system
- Agencies more responsive to local needs and issues
- Multi-agency plans developed and approaches adopted across a range of problem areas sustaining cultural change across the whole system

Communities

- Improved understanding of local problem, FD and role the community plays
- Increased opportunity to share views, experiences, and influence decisions

Communities

- Improved understanding of agency roles, local support services and impact of FD
- Increased engagement with cohort, and with agencies to share insights

Communities

- Local communities feel safer
- Increased trust in statutory organisations

Children & Young Adults

- Development of trusting and positive relationship with lead worker and navigator/coach
- Sustained engagement
- Increased access to and uptake of support services and pro-social activity
- Improved understanding of consequence of offending

Evidence based short term outcomes

Children & Young Adults

- Reduction in risk factors driving involvement in SV:
- ➤ Improved wellbeing, emotion and behaviour management
- ➤ Improved relationships with family & community ➤ Participation in prosocial
- activity

 ➤ Improved aspirations, and employability skills
- ➤ Reduced substance misuse

Evidence based medium term outcomes

Children & Young Adults

- Reduction in serious violence and in reoffending
- Reduction in young people attending and admitted to hospital with violence-related injuries

Evidence based long term outcomes

Violence Intervention Project – Theory of Change

- Recent police data shows that local levels of serious violence (SV) continue to rise (13% for under 25s).
- 2. Peak age for perpetrators and victims of SV is 15-19 years old, followed by 10-14 years old
- LLR has higher rates than the national average for admissions to hospital for assaults with a knife or sharp object
- Leicester has significantly higher than the national averages for first-time offenders, first-time entrants and children in the YJS.
- Review of local data demonstrates key risk factors for involvement in SV being previous offending or experience of victimisation, NEET, association with negative peer influences, lack of constructive activities.
- 6. Diverting young people away from the CJS is likely to have a moderate impact on violent crime (YEF, 2022). Coupling diversion with an intervention which address the risk factors and strengthens protective factors (e.g. ETE and positive activities) is likely to increase impact of the work.
- Custody and A&E are seen as reachable spaces which provide a window of opportunity where a young person might be more willing to accept support following a teachable moment.

Evidence-based need and assumption

- Children and young people up to the age of 25 who are attending:
- Police custody following arrest for serious violence or an associated offence (e.g. where offending is linked to exploitation)
- Health setting following a violence-related injury

- Deliver brief intervention with young person in reachable space with the aim of securing consent to participate on the programme in the community
- Three to four month intervention providing intensive and flexible mentoring support to address risk factors and strengthen protective factors.
- Flexible delivery in the spaces that young people feel safe and comfortable (e.g. neighbourhood, home, school, youth centre)
- Sessions on core components which are linked to the risk/cause of offending behaviour:
- ➤ Understanding Behaviours (Sequence of events which led to offending)
- Consequences of offending / Safety advice (Focuses on providing safety advice, dispelling myths/educating on violence and other associated crimes)
- ➤ Social Skills Training (Risk/Protective Factors: impulsivity, ability to manage/regulate emotions and behaviours)
- ➤ Confidence and Wellbeing (Risk/Protective Factors: mental ill-health, self esteem, resilience)
- ➤ Education, Training and Employment (Risk/Protective Factors: low attendance/achievement at school, unemployment, economic opportunities)
- ➤ Positive Activities (Risk/Protective Factors: Participation in constructive activities with trusted adults/positive peers)
- Specialist areas covered depending on need (e.g. substance misuse, housing, benefits, family/parent support)
- Flexible dosage of programme components to meet need
- Facilitating access to and encouraging participation in purposeful and sustainable recreational activities
- Cases closed following four weeks of no concerns with behaviour and when sustainability planning taking place (e.g. scenario based exercises, and support networks in place).

- Development of a positive and trusting relationship with Youth Worker
- Improved understanding of the causes/drivers of problem behaviours (e.g. individual, familial, school, peer, & contextual factors)
- Increased awareness of consequences of behaviour
- Increased awareness of and ability to label emotions
- Improved understanding of negative peer influences and family relationships
- Increased awareness of confidence/selfesteem
- Identification of interests (e.g. sports, arts, music etc) and aspirations (e.g. ETE) and provided with access to opportunities

Evidence-based

short-term

outcomes

- Reduction in positive attitudes towards offending
- Development of new skills to manage emotions and behaviours
- Improved understanding of how to manage wellbeing
- Development of new skills to manage negative peer influences
- Increased motivation in ETE and development of employability skills
- Increased participation in positive activities (e.g. sports, arts, music)
- Access to and uptake of specialist services for support (e.g. substance misuse, housing)
- Improved feelings of safety

- Improved emotional regulation and behaviour management
- Reduction in risk factors associated with offending or victimisation
- Increased confidence, selfesteem and wellbeing
- Improved relationships with family and reduction in conflict in the home
- Improved attendance/positive behaviour at school
- Sustained motivation to find/stay in employment
- Sustained engagement in prosocial recreational activities
- Increased network of positive peers and trusted adults

Evidence-based medium-term outcomes

Evidence-based long-term outcomes

Intervention

WHY is the intervention needed

Evidence-based

assumption