

THAMES VALLEY

**VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION**

PARTNERSHIP

# Response Strategy

## 2024 – 2025

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Published June 2024



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# Introduction

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## The scope of this Response Strategy:

From April 2022, Violence Reduction Units were given indicative budgets by the Home Office to develop a three-year programme, with an annual Response Strategy setting out approaches and activities.

We now enter the third and final year of that three-year programme, building upon the foundations we set last year.

This Response Strategy sets out the Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership's programme of work for the year ahead, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

## Section 1 of this document contains:

- An overview of the national policy context.
  - Our core function, the underpinning principles to our approach and our Theory of Change.
  - An overview of all our funding and resources.
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## Section 2 describes the five key strands of our programme for 2024–2025:

- Leadership and coordination of the wider partnership.
- Investing into and coordinating a programme of pilot interventions and wider activities.
- Evaluating our pilot interventions and building an evidence base for what works.
- Supporting sustainable training for the wider system.
- Leading new approaches in multi-agency data-sharing.

# National policy and strategic context

## Serious Violence Strategy



The Serious Violence Strategy 2018 set out the need for effective law enforcement of violence, drugs and exploitation, but with emphasis on earlier intervention and diversion. It describes the need for a focus upon young people and efforts to address the root causes of violence. The public health approach, treating violence as you would a disease, remains a guiding principle.

The Strategy demands a whole-system approach, with all public partners working better together, the involvement of the private sector, voluntary bodies and our communities.

Current ministerial direction remains aligned to the strategy:

- The use of evidence and evaluation of what works to inform investment.
- Mature data-sharing arrangements and targeted responses to violence.
- Multi-agency working and a whole-system partnership response.

## Youth Endowment Fund



In 2019, the Youth Endowment Fund was given a 10-year mandate to prevent young people becoming involved in violence. Its £200m endowment fund is invested to identify which approaches have most impact, building the evidence base of what works. The [YEF Toolkit](#) provides an evolving framework for effective intervention approaches and guides investment.

## Violence Reduction Units



Also in 2019, a network of 20 Violence Reduction Units were established by the Home Office in those areas with the highest levels of serious violence, including the Thames Valley. The VRUs are partnership bodies which enable strategic leadership and coordination and are also funded to deliver and evaluate interventions locally, building local capacity and sustainability.

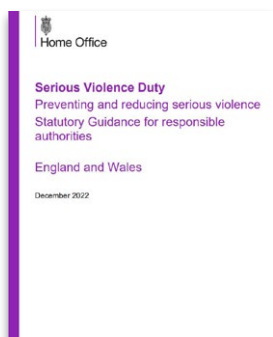


## Harm to Hope



In 2021, the government's Beating Crime Plan was published, followed by a new 10-year drugs strategy, From Harm to Hope. These reinforced the areas of priority and maintained ministerial priorities with regard the approach to tackling serious violence and the role of the Violence Reduction Units.

## Serious Violence Duty



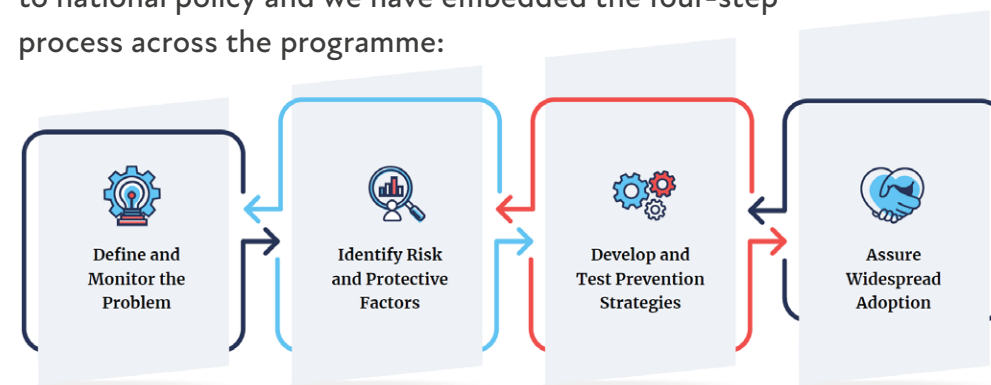
The Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022 included a new Serious Violence Duty. It invoked new legal responsibilities upon specified authorities, including local authorities, police, fire & rescue, health bodies, youth offending teams and probation. It requires improved data sharing within local partnerships, the development of Strategic Needs Assessments

and the publication of collaborative Local Plans to address violence and its causes. Police & Crime Commissioners now hold an oversight function. All nine of our local partnership areas published their Local Plans in January 2024. Available via [our website](#).

📌 **Reference:** [The Centre for Disease Control – Violence Prevention Division](#)

## The Public Health Approach

Taking a public health approach to preventing violence is central to national policy and we have embedded the four-step process across the programme:



Our data-led approaches include the ongoing development of the *Thames Valley Together* data-sharing architecture and processes. The analytical tools and insights it promises are vital to our identification and monitoring of the problem as well as informing our shared understanding of the risk and protective factors.

We invest in a programme of pilot interventions in line with evidence and we put in place ongoing evaluation of these. Outside of these core interventions we will work with partners to identify other local practice which has promise and seek to support further evaluation.

Through these steps we will build an evidence base to promote the wider adoption of these approaches, supporting change and future sustainability.

# A place-based and whole-system way of working

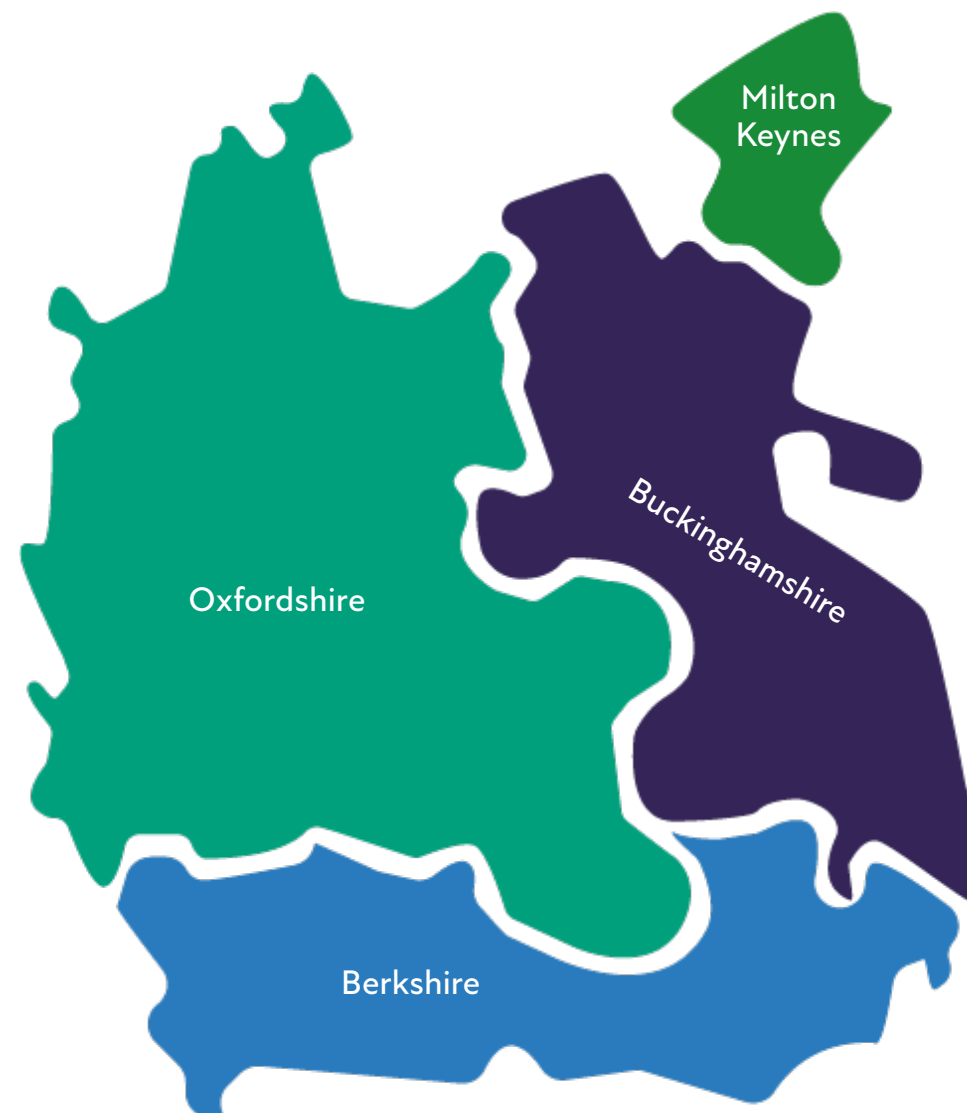
We work across nine local violence reduction partnerships aligned with the upper-tier local authorities, representing 12 Community Safety Partnership areas and three NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)

The nine partnerships we coordinate with are:

- Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Group – coordinating the 4 local CSPs
- Milton Keynes Together Partnership
- Safer Buckinghamshire Board
- Bracknell Community Safety Partnership
- Reading Community Safety Partnership
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Community Safety Partnership
- Slough Community Safety Partnership
- West Berkshire Community Safety Partnership
- Wokingham Community Safety Partnership

With a large geography and a complex partnership landscape across the Thames Valley region, taking a place-based approach is essential.

These partnerships have representation throughout our Partnership Model and our team attends local meetings where appropriate. We fund the Violence Reduction Coordinator roles in each system who play an important role.



# Adopting the 5 Cs approach

We have adopted the “5 Cs” approach as described in national policy regarding whole-system working to prevent violence.

- We build **community consensus** and we **collaborate** with partners using the VPP Partnership Model and wider networks.
- We **co-produce**, identifying what works through evidence and evaluation and in response to local need and by working with local partners.
- We **co-operate** through *Thames Valley Together*, our data-sharing platform and through joint working on Strategic Needs Assessments at local and regional level.
- We have developed a central, evidence-based approach to delivering a **counter-narrative**, which we encourage all our partners to use, under the strapline “Stay True to You”. Through this work we aim to drive behaviour change and support young people to make positive choices.



Reference: [A Whole-System Multi-Agency Approach to Serious Violence Prevention](#), Public Health England, 2019

# Understanding local drivers and root causes of violence

Our programme is informed by an understanding of the drivers of crime and identified risk factors.

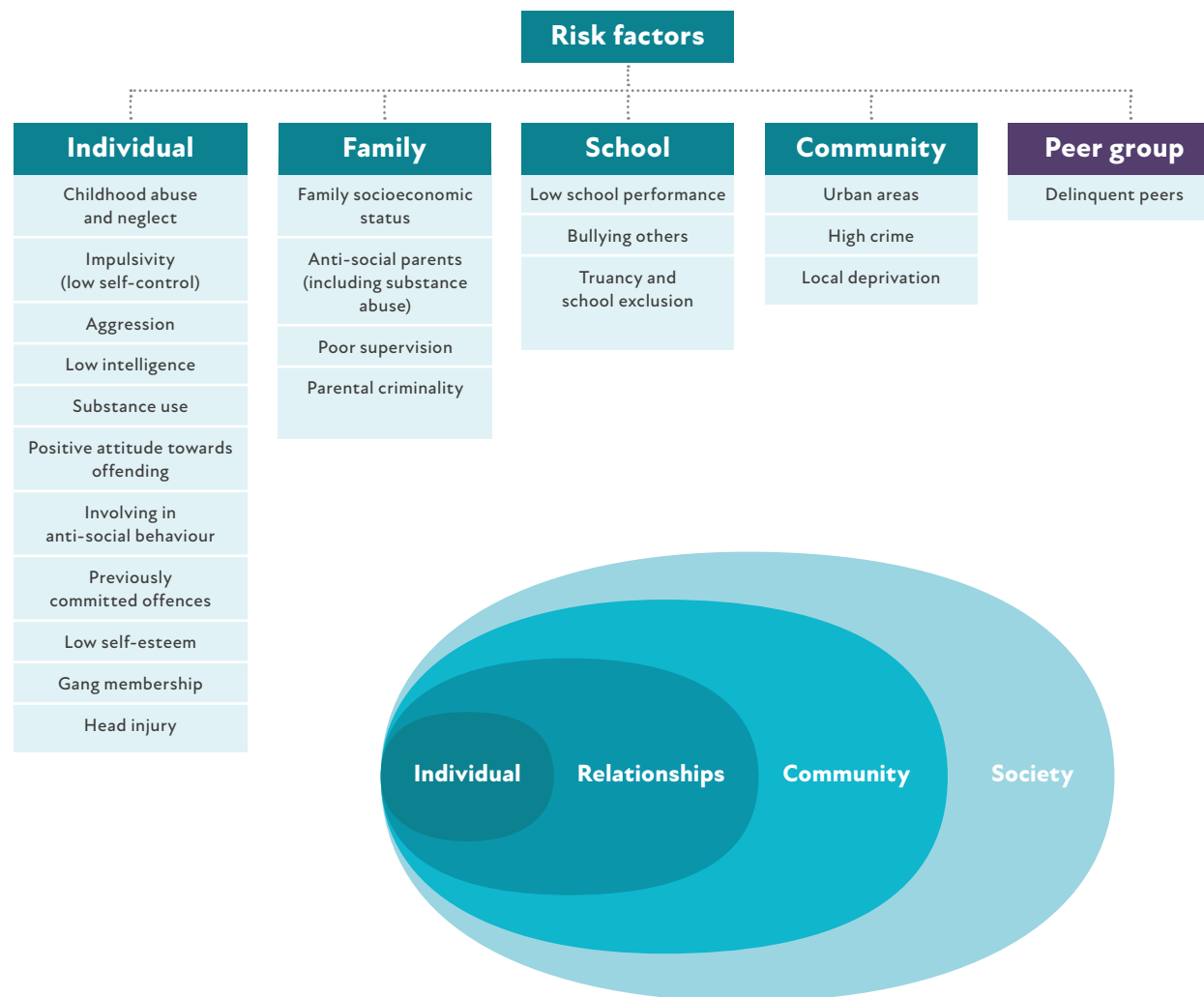
We use our own data and local understanding to identify these risk factors and the opportunities to address the drivers of crime.

As required under the Serious Violence Duty, all nine local partnership areas have undertaken their own Strategic Needs Assessments, drawing from a range of data sources. These inform their Local Plans.

Over the coming year, the *Thames Valley Together* data-sharing programme will make available data sets to allow these local SNAs to be refreshed.

We also acknowledge the evidence that violence is an outcome of interaction amongst many different risk factors at the individual, relationships, community and societal levels, with each treated as of equal importance.

**References:** [Serious Violence Strategy 2018](#), HM Government, 2018; [A Whole-System Multi-Agency Approach to Serious Violence Prevention](#), Public Health England, 2019





## Our vision

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**As a partnership, under the umbrella of the Serious Violence Duty, our vision is to prevent serious violence by embedding a public health approach through which we will address the root causes of violence.**

We take a whole-system partnership approach with an emphasis on supporting young people, on education, early intervention and diversion and on changing behaviours.

Our work is an important first step in preventing violence. The police and youth justice services will also take action against

those who offend, with enforcement activity that protects the public and seeks to prevent reoffending.

We will work together as a partnership to share data and undertake evaluation of what works, with evidence used to embed systemic change.

## Our core function

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**Through our partnership, and the core programme team, we will provide strategic leadership, coordination and training for our local response to Serious Violence under the umbrella of the Serious Violence Duty.**

The Serious Violence Duty will be discharged via the PCC or their representative at the Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership Strategy Board. As active system leaders, we will work with Community Safety Partnerships as they manage their local response to serious violence and deliver upon the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.

Where central government grants are available, the programme team will work collaboratively across the partnership to support local capacity, while continuing to deliver and evaluate interventions, sharing the evidence of what works across partners.

Where interventions and new approaches are shown to have impact, the partnership will work towards achieving longer-term sustainability and adoption.

## Our underpinning principles

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- ▶ **A public health approach**  
to tackling serious violence and its root causes
- ▶ **Data-led**  
and evidence-based practice and interventions
- ▶ **Trauma informed approaches**  
in our work and championed through our partners locally
- ▶ **Involving our communities,**  
in particular young people and those vulnerable  
to violence and its impact, giving them a voice

## Serious Violence Definition

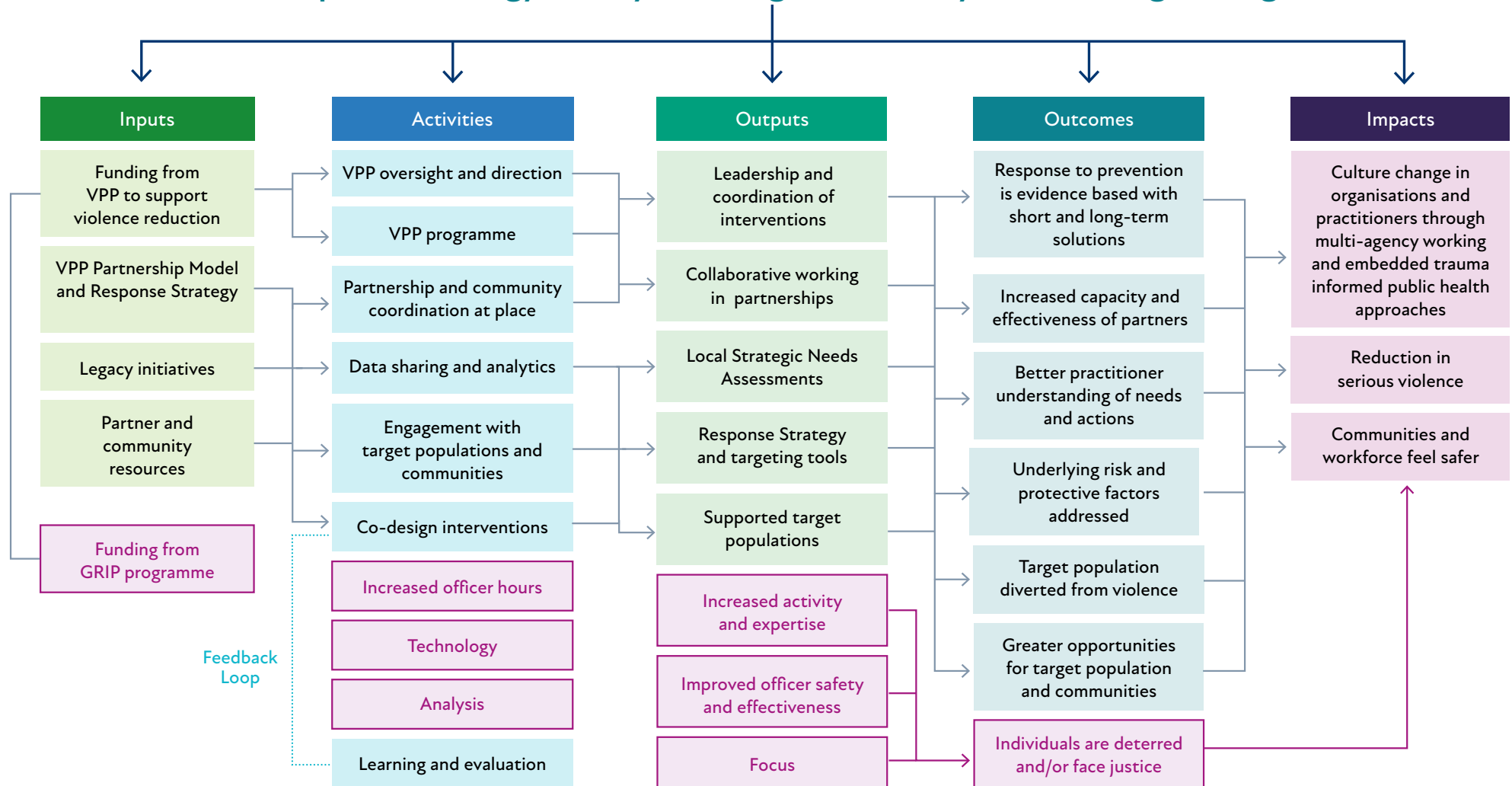
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In May 2023, partners across the Thames Valley agreed to adopt a revised single definition for serious violence, to reflect the local response to the Serious Violence Duty.

**“Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.”**

# Our Theory of Change

## Response Strategy Theory of Change – Whole Systems Strengthening





# Our resourcing and accompanying ministerial priorities and direction

In April 2022, Violence Reduction Units were given an indicative three-year budget to develop a programme of work through to the end of March 2025.

In the Spring Budget 2024, the government announced £75m for a further three years from 2025 to expand the Violence Reduction Unit model across England and Wales, although there remains no clarity on what proportion of this funding will be for existing VRUs.

The grant tapers down and match-funding requirements increase, marking a move toward greater long-term local sustainability beyond central funding.

- **Year 1 – 2022–2023:** The VPP fully utilised a budget of £2m, with some of the delivery rolling-over and funding activity in Year 2. A 10% match-funding requirement was met.
- **Year 2 – 2023–2024:** The VPP fully utilised a budget of £1.53m. A 15% match-funding requirement was met, primarily through seconding of officers into the VPP programme team by Thames Valley Police, but also through a number of other match-funded projects.
- **Year 3 – 2024–2025:** An approved budget of £1.51m, with a 20% match-funding requirement.

Also, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner oversees the “Serious Violence Duty Burden Grant”, supporting partners with the burden of the Duty. See page 15.

Ministerial direction and the VRU grant guidance requires us to:

- Establish the resources, structures and processes to lead and coordinate partners.
- Develop and deliver a three-year programme which responds to the harms, vulnerabilities, risk and protective factors associated with violence.
- Invest at least 30% of the VRU grant in tailored interventions responsive to local need, designed in line with the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit.
- Invest at least 10% of the VRU’s intervention spend on evaluating these activities to build the evidence base of what works, supporting sustainable long-term adoption beyond the provision of central funding.

# The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner



Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley is the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the VRU grant issued by the Home Office. The PCC is supported by the wider Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.



The Violence Prevention Partnership's small central programme team is hosted within the OPCC, with Jules Bottazzi, Head of Violence Reduction, sitting in the PCC's senior management team.

The passage of legislation bringing forward the Serious Violence Duty has created a new responsibility for the PCC, one of oversight of local partner readiness and their adherence with the Duty provisions.

The membership of the wider Violence Prevention Partnership represents all the Duty Holders, those organisations on whom those provisions rest.

Over previous years we have worked closely through our Partnership Model with all members in order to support their “getting upstream” of the Duty. This has included the establishment of their own local structures, development of Strategic Needs Assessments and the production of their Local Plans.

With these local structures and plans now in place, they provide an important part of the longer-term cultural and financial sustainability of our shared ways of working.

The PCC discharges his oversight function through his own active involvement and leadership of the work of the Violence Prevention Partnership, and through the delivery of the Partnership Model.

The OPCC also manages a grant to support local partners in response to the new burden created by the Serious Violence Duty. This will deliver an additional £756,000 over three years, with 2024–2025 the final year in the current funding round.

This is funding Violence Reduction Coordinator posts in each of the nine partnership areas and supporting with other non-labour aspects (i.e. counter narrative, data sharing).

# Active partners and involved communities

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With the Serious Violence Duty now live, there is an increased requirement for active leadership and collaboration at both a regional and local level.

Our Partnership Model facilitates representative leadership from the nine place-based partnerships and wider partners. These local systems have their own existing structures which bring together system leaders from key public partners as well as other stakeholders, including the voluntary and community sector. Through this they will deliver a whole-system approach to prevent and tackle violence in their local communities.

The VPP's central programme of work will be an input into those local systems, particularly in those areas we identify as having high harm and violence and where our grant funded interventions are being piloted. These initiatives will be reflected in local plans and their approaches and impacts considered for longer-term adoption and sustainable delivery.

The VPP will share the outputs of our evaluations, the evidence base of what works and the value for money to build a persuasive argument for these interventions and the approaches to be sustained. As this evidence-base grows, it will be of particular use to those areas where interventions are being delivered, but also to all partners to consider the wider applicability.

## Involving the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

The voluntary and community sector is key to the VPP's approach, with all our piloted interventions seeking to build their local capacity and the contribution they make to a local area.

The VCS is most effective when considered as a local partner of equal importance, able to activate and involve local communities to support young people and build strong communities. For the year ahead, the nine local partnerships will build on this approach within their strategic planning and operational delivery.

## Community voice

The VPP will continue to work to understand community perceptions of violence and the risk and protective factors. This will shape our own priorities and intervention activity. The nine local partnerships will undertake their own work with local communities and involve them as they build the local response. This will also feed back into the work of the VPP.

# Investing the VRU core grant for 2024–2025

## VPP programme team

Supporting leadership and coordination,  
communications and engagement

**£390,000**

## Evaluating what works

**£140,000**

## Sustainable training

**£60,000**

## Our pilot interventions

**£832,500**

Hospital Navigators	£125,000
School Navigators	£140,000
Custody Coaches	Funded 23/24
Focussed Deterrence	£170,000
Sports and Inclusion	£180,000
Op Paramount	£7,500
Stay True to You	£20,000
MASH	£120,000
SEND	£60,000
Blue Light Mentoring	£10,000

## Data sharing

**£75,000\***

Supporting *Thames Valley Together*

## Total grant

**£1.51m**

**56%**  
invested in pilot  
interventions

**16%**  
of total intervention  
spend invested in  
evaluations

Some interventions are part-funded from the 2023–2024 grant.

\*The Home Office has made an additional £100,000 uplift to support TVT development. See page 30.

# Our core programme for 2024–2025

For the year ahead our programme of activity is divided across five key strands:

## Leadership and coordination

Our Partnership Model  
and Programme  
Management Office

## Our pilot interventions and activities

The VRU grant-funded interventions  
The wider activities  
within our networks



## Data sharing approaches

Continue to support the  
development of *Thames Valley  
Together* as our single shared  
solution to data sharing

## Sustainable training

Supporting our partnership  
with training  
Developing a strategic approach  
to meeting training needs

## Evaluation and an evidence base for what works

Developing and implementing our Research Life Cycle  
Evaluation of our interventions  
Sustainability and social value





# Our core function of leadership and coordination

## Our Partnership Model

Our Partnership Model ensures a tiered approach to coordination across the diverse partnership landscape that makes up the Thames Valley.

For the year ahead, we are focused on building a sustainable model which is embedded into the culture of our existing ways of working and which can be delivered without central grant funding.

Through this model we deliver senior level leadership and a take a focus on whole-system change, oversight of the Serious Violence Duty, governance of the VPP's programme and also ensure coordination with local partnership structures.

We will generate an evidence feedback loop into our Partnership Model from our evaluation activity in order to inform local approaches as to what works and what is financially sustainable.

### Thames Valley Senior Leaders Summit

### VPP Strategy Board

### CSP Managers Network

### Local CSPs and partnership structures

### VPP Programme Management Office

Led by the PCC, held twice per year. Convenes Chief Executive and senior leaders from across the partnership to focus on priorities and whole-system change.

Senior representatives from the VPP's core membership. Provides quarterly governance meeting for the VPP's programme, oversight of local partnership compliance with the Duty and responding to emerging evidence.

A more tactical-level group working with the Community Safety Partnership managers on delivery of Local Serious Violence Plans and coordination of activity.

# Role of the VPP Programme Management Office

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Our small central programme team within the Violence Prevention Partnership administers the whole programme of activity and supports the leadership and coordination across the wider partnership.

- ▶ **Administration** of Home Office VRU & SV Duty Grant(s)
- ▶ **Programme and project management** of VPP programme of work
- ▶ **Ensures informed decision making** via Research Project Lifecycle
- ▶ **Provides an evidence base** of ‘what works’
- ▶ **Home Office liaison** and reporting
- ▶ **Supports strategic leadership and coordination** through delivery of the VPP Partnership Model
- ▶ **Coordinates partner responses** to meet the SV Duty
- ▶ **Reports into the VPP Strategy Board;** allowing it to make informed decisions
- ▶ **Ensures alignment** with wider OPCC activity, governance and decision making processes

## Key projects and activities

There are a number of projects and activities being delivered under this strand of the VPP programme which contribute to the wider aims of providing leadership and coordination.

Activity:	Summary:
<b>VPP Partnership Model delivery</b>	Providing leadership, convening our partners, working across system boundaries to provide whole-system change. Deliver accountable governance with oversight of the Serious Violence Duty. Feed back evaluation products to provide the evidence base for change. We seek to embed these ways of working to secure the cultural and financial sustainability of our approaches and to drive better outcomes.
<b>VPP Programme Management Office</b>	The Programme Management Office oversees all aspects of delivery of the programme including grant and contract management, reporting, administration, etc.
<b>Leadership</b>	The VPP takes a leadership role nationally, seen within the VRU Network as innovative and high-performing. We continue to be national leads for data sharing. Our work on evaluation is amongst the best. Locally, we play a role in providing strategic direction and supporting local leaders.
<b>Communications</b>	Through our communications we engage and inform our stakeholders. We use our channels to facilitate the Partnership Model, promote the evidence base and embed the cultural sustainability of our approaches. This also includes delivery of a single shared counter narrative, “Stay True to You”.
<b>Family Drug &amp; Alcohol Courts</b>	We continue to work with the judiciary, local partners (particularly in Berkshire) and with the Centre for Justice Innovation to develop a new FDAC to support vulnerable families.
<b>Employability and Skills project</b>	We are working with colleagues in Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and HM Prisons & Probation Service to develop a new project to support access to training and employment for those leaving the secure estate. The project will also inform our Focused Deterrence intervention, aiming to improve employability amongst its cohort.
<b>Social value models</b>	We continue to explore new social value models which can support the cultural and financial sustainability of our programme. This includes our partnership with Pluggin, which aims to drive investment from the private sector.



## Testing interventions

We are committed to using the grant to deliver maximum impact and to support the capacity of our local partnerships.

▶ **£832,500**

Nearly  
**60%**  
of total grant  
invested into testing  
10 interventions  
this year

We have funded a number of our interventions over multiple years to allow their delivery model to develop, for the establishment of a robust evaluation and to allow us to find alternative funding for their sustainability. In some cases, their activity is sustained by funding from last year's grant, delivering benefit into the year ahead and allowing us to invest in other initiatives.

Whilst we have sought to maintain a focus on quality over quantity of activity, we have also taken opportunities to be innovative where we see particular possibility. We have placed indicative budgets against three new interventions allowing for scoping and development. And, if the evidence supports it, an expansion into wider delivery. These include:

- Blue Light Mentors
- Mash Process
- SEND schools

### A key role for the voluntary and community sector:




Almost all of our interventions work with delivery partners from the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) and we have directly contracted with 10 individual VCS/third-sector organisations and in some instances there are additional organisations working within a consortium (i.e. Slough Sports Consortium).






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# Testing interventions

Intervention	Summary	Location	Grant funding
 <b>Hospital Navigators</b>	Our longest running intervention, working with five VCS organisations to recruit, train and coordinate volunteers who provide mentor support in A&E departments. They support those admitted in “risky circumstances” with signposting to other support services and an offer of ongoing mentoring.	Five A&E departments covering all areas of Thames Valley	£125,000
 <b>School Navigators</b>	First piloted in two areas in 2022, the delivery model was refined and re-launched in September 2023. Working with youth workers from VCS organisation SOFEA. The Schools Navigators work to prevent additional exclusion or a reduction in frequency. They offer up to six weekly mentoring sessions for young people referred by the school at the point of their first suspension.	Four schools in Milton Keynes	£140,000
 <b>Custody Coaches</b>	Working with trained youth workers from Reading FC Community Trust and MK Dons Sports & Education Trust. Custody Coaches support suitable detainees identified by Thames Valley Police. They offer immediate support to address harmful behaviours and life circumstances, providing an enduring mentoring role if required.	Two custody suites covering Berkshire and Milton Keynes	Funded by 23/24 carry-over



Intervention	Summary	Location	Grant funding
 <b>Focussed Deterrence</b>	<p>First launched in February 2023, this Milton Keynes partnership project targets those under 25 who habitually carry a knife, or who have carried a knife and also committed violent or sexual offences. Primarily implemented by the Milton Keynes Council's Contextual Safeguarding Team, working with Thames Valley Police. It is support offer-first, led by social care, with procedurally-just police support, rather than being a police-led, threat-first model.</p>	Milton Keynes	£170,000
 <b>Sports and Inclusion</b>	<p>Six "Sports Plus" initiatives funded. They deliver a range of sports activities to engage more vulnerable cohorts of young people, while also offering additional services such as mentoring or education and training opportunities.</p>	Six local projects with two in Oxford then one each in High Wycombe, Milton Keynes, Slough and Reading	£180,000
<b>Sports and Violence Impact Manager</b>	<p>A jointly-funded role hosted by StreetGames UK, the post leads the oversight of the funded local sports intervention projects. Also, works to build local partnership capacity, supports local funding bids and service development and secures funding via national grants.</p>	Offers support to all partnerships across the Thames Valley.	Funded within the £180,000 total
 <b>Operation Paramount</b>	<p>Now seen as a national innovation, we continue to support the partnership between Thames Valley Police and the charity Children Heard &amp; Seen. Operation Paramount is a data-sharing process which is speeding up the offer of support to families affected by a parent being imprisoned.</p>	Whole Thames Valley	£7,500

Intervention	Summary	Location	Grant funding
 <b>Stay True to You</b>	Our new shared counter-narrative / behavioural change campaign. Building on previous research with young people, it seeks to empower them to make their own positive choices while also identifying the trusted adults there to help. The year ahead will see the programme roll-out, including a training offer by the Ben Kinsella Trust for parents and practitioners.	Whole Thames Valley	£20,000
 <b>MASH</b>	A scoping exercise with the Thames Valley Police Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), exploring their processes and procedures and undertaking a “Value Stream Mapping” exercise. This will inform the next stages of the intervention development.	Whole Thames Valley	£120,000
 <b>SEND</b>	A scoping exercise working with Oxfordshire partners to develop an enhanced SEND training offer, in particular for schools/alternative education providers.	Oxfordshire	£60,000
 <b>Blue Light Mentoring</b>	Scoping exercise with Berkshire partners within emergency services/ health to explore a mentorship/role model programme, with routes to training and employment.	Berkshire	£10,000



## Evaluating what works

A core function of the VPP is how we support research into effective approaches to tackle the root causes of violence.

Through research and evaluation we can identify what works, or does not, and create an evidence base. We also build our understanding of value for public money and return on investment. By doing this, we help improve processes and drive adoption and longer-term sustainability beyond the VPP grant funding.

Over the course of the year ahead, we will deliver evaluation evidence to our local partnership and the wider national network.

We have aligned our programme of existing interventions, and the support we offer our local partners, around our research life cycle. This framework ensures interventions are designed and delivered in a manner which yields best evidence.

Our running evaluations include high quality randomised controlled trials, tailored for the particular intervention and coordinated by our in-house Evaluation team.

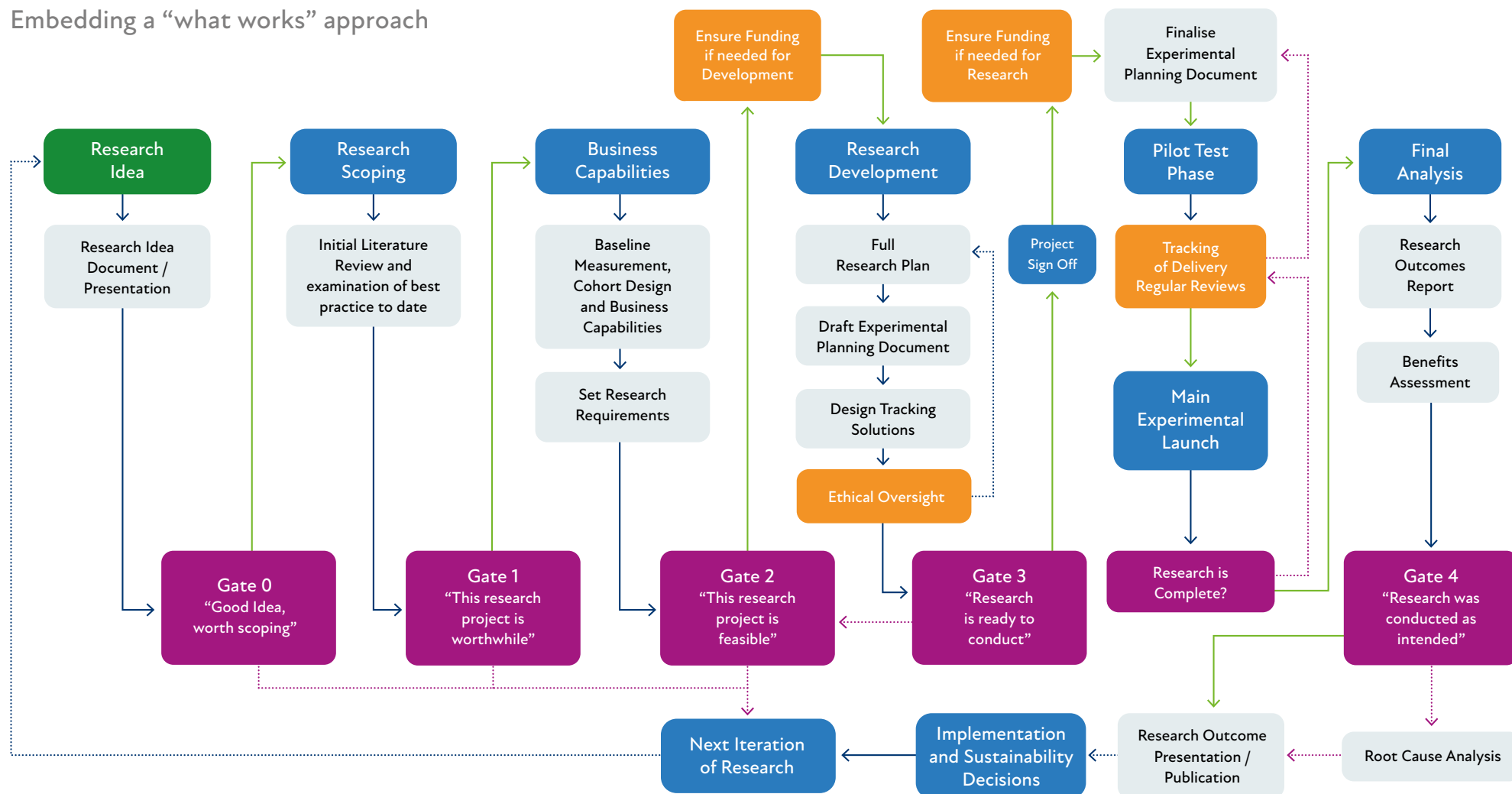
They conduct reviews every three months and allow appropriate follow-up periods, which vary depending upon the intervention. Where interim results are robust, these will be shared. Final findings will be compiled following a suitable delivery period, determined as capable of showing impact one way or another.

The following pages detail our research life cycle and the progress with our evaluation activity.

**The VPP will invest**  
**► £140,000**  
**to undertake evaluation  
of interventions**




# The VPP Research Life Cycle

Embedding a “what works” approach










Reference: Adapted from Olphin, T.P.A., (2023). *Research Project Lifecycle: A Structured Approach to Conducting Research in the Public Sector*, Reading, UK: Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit. © Crown Copyright 2023

# Evaluating what works

Intervention	Evaluation summary	Next steps	Gate on life cycle
 <b>Hospital Navigators</b>	An evaluation of the post-implementation phase of the scheme has been completed by Oxford Brookes University and will be published in June 2024. It included a document review, case description review and interviews with stakeholders.	<p>Report published June 2024.</p> <p>Evidence presented to key commissioner partners as part of sustainability discussion.</p>	Evaluation commissioned before the Life Cycle approach was implemented.
 <b>Schools Navigators</b>	A randomised controlled trial commenced 2 October 2023.	<p>Trial projected to end 31 July 2024.</p> <p>This allows results from one full academic year to be reviewed. Final results projected September 2024.</p>	Passed Gate 3: RCT in progress
 <b>Custody Coaches</b>	A randomised controlled trial commenced 4 December 2023.	<p>Continue to build the cohort numbers.</p> <p>No trial end-date yet set. Final results would be 6 and 12 months after trial end to allow follow-up period.</p>	Passed Gate 3: RCT in progress
<b>Speech &amp; Language Therapy</b>	Supporting TVP's commissioned Liaison & Diversion service with the delivery of a randomised controlled trial, which commenced 2 October 2023.	Projected trial end October 2024.	Passed Gate 3: RCT in progress



Intervention	Evaluation summary	Next steps	Gate on life cycle
 <b>Focussed Deterrence</b>	A randomised controlled trial commenced 27 February 2023. Some in the cohort completed six months as of 20 January 2024 and some are reaching 12 months. Follow up period now in place and new individuals being added to the cohort.	Interim data for the first cohort to have completed six months now completed and shows promise. Findings will be written up for dissemination in first quarter of 2024. Once the follow-up period has completed, findings for those completing 12 months will be produced.	
 <b>Sports and Inclusion</b>	Working with StreetGames UK and YEF on contribution to their evaluation of the scheme nationally.	Pending further detail from national partners	Passed Gate 2: Feasible research project
 <b>Op Paramount</b>	A data analysis of children from Oxfordshire affected by parental imprisonment is being undertaken to provide data for a potential longitudinal study.	In addition to the work with Oxfordshire partners, we continue to engage with the YEF as to whether the national roll-out of Paramount approaches could create a broader evaluation opportunity.	Passed Gate 2: Research project in development
 <b>Stay True to You</b>	Evaluation of the communications reach will be undertaken. Some impact research questions are being designed for implementation May 2024.	<p>Reach evaluation will commence May 2024, and will continue to be gathered to end of March 2025.</p> <p>A process evaluation will be compiled by June 2024.</p> <p>Gathering of data in line with the research questions will commence May 2024.</p>	Passed Gate 2

Intervention		Evaluation summary	Next steps	Gate on life cycle
	<b>MASH</b>	A value-stream mapping exercise will be undertaken, examining internal processes and procedures, to inform future interventions.	Recruitment of staff underway. Evaluation design will follow.	Gate 1: Undertaking literature review and experimental planning
	<b>SEND schools</b>	Intervention design underway.	Evaluation design will follow.	Passed Gate 2: Experimental planning ongoing
	<b>Blue Light Mentoring</b>	Intervention design underway.	Evaluation design will follow.	Gate 1: Undertaking literature review and experimental planning



## Data sharing: *Thames Valley Together*

All our work is underpinned by data-led and evidence-based approaches, ensuring we have the best understanding of where serious violence is taking place in our communities, the risk factors and what protective measures we can put in place.

A priority focus is the development of the first multi-agency data-sharing and analytical platform, called *Thames Valley Together*. Hosted by Thames Valley Police, the team works collaboratively with developers and analysts from across the Thames Valley to provide innovative responses to challenges across the partnership.

The Violence Prevention Partnership is supporting the ongoing development of *Thames Valley Together* with £75,000 from our core grant enabling the technical/analytical team to continue developing what is widely recognised as a national innovation in data sharing approaches.

In addition, the Home Office has made an additional £100,000 available to the development of *Thames Valley Together*, in recognition of its innovation and as it informs the wider national adoption of similar approaches to data sharing.

For the year ahead, the *Thames Valley Together* system will continue to mature with an increasing number of “live” datasets being flowed into the model, accessible to partners.

A key commissioned product will be the delivery of the “Violence Prevention Partnership Prevention Performance Pack”, which will provide partners a common picture of datasets associated with serious violence and knife crime, to inform strategic planning and local response strategies.

For 2024-2025, *Thames Valley Together* will also offer new datasets for use by all local partners in the updating of local Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessments, with the analytical power and live data flows offering efficiencies in time and accuracy. This will allow the refreshing of Strategic Needs Assessments which underpin the local response strategies.

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TOGETHER**



## Sustainable Training

The Violence Prevention Partnership has identified the opportunity to support the capacity and capability of our local partnerships through the provision and enablement of sustainable training approaches.

Whether public sector organisations, or voluntary and community sector, our work over the past year (2023–2024) has highlighted that there is a demand for applicable training and we are utilising the skills of our programme team, with a budget for training development for the year ahead.

We will continue to work with our partners, offering our support and collaboration wherever we can add value to the more tactical delivery of training activity. For example, we will continue to deliver the training associated with county drug lines and exploitation to police officers. We will continue to work with Oxfordshire Youth in delivering the “Girls, gangs and exploitation” training across Oxfordshire, and we’re exploring opportunities to broaden the provision of “MakeSafe” exploitation awareness training. We continue to offer our expertise to our local partners to support any identified training need where we can assist.

However, we are now focused on the development of a more strategic approach to identifying and responding to training needs, where associated with the public health approach/violence reduction agenda.

For the year ahead, we have commenced the development of a sustainable training strategy which we aim to both meet local need and become a financially sustainable offer for the longer term, beyond grant funding.






# Measures of our success

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# Measures of our success – our core programme

We have identified the following key measures of success against each of the five strands that make up our programme for the year ahead.









Programme strand	Success measures
 <b>Leadership and coordination</b>	We will continue to monitor the strength of engagement in our Partnership Model. It must continue to support partners in their delivery of their Serious Violence Local Plans, while providing a robust governance and oversight function. A measure of success will be continued strength of engagement, the ability to achieve strategic decision making by consensus and evidence of the cultural and financial adoption/sustainability of our approaches.
 <b>Testing interventions</b>	Through our programme management function we will ensure our investment into interventions is well managed and monitored. We have set realistic targets for delivery, described in detail in the next table.
 <b>Evaluating what works</b>	We will deliver high quality evaluation results on time and in a range of formats suited to the audience and purpose. Through this, we will deliver a strong evidence base which will in turn support the wider adoption of promising approaches and the cultural and financial sustainability of the programme. We will contribute to the national understanding of what works.
 <b>Sustainable training</b>	Through our training strategy, we will develop a clear offer which has been prioritised in response to training needs. We will build capacity and capability of local partnerships. We will achieve a model that is self-sustaining.
 <b>Data sharing</b>	<i>Thames Valley Together</i> will continue to evolve in its sophistication of data, analytical resources and its adoption by partners. It will deliver efficiencies for our partners in their assessment of need and targeting of activity and will support our strategic intent.

# Measures of our success – intervention and training targets

This table describes our targets for the period of delivery 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

It sets a target for new young people to be reached through each intervention. As we monitor our delivery, we will not count those individuals who continue to engage with an intervention from the previous year as contributing to our meeting of the target set.

We will also monitor the number of new professionals to be trained from the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Intervention		Total people 24 and under	Total people 25 and over	Total professionals trained
	Hospital Navigators	300	75	
	School Navigators*	140		
	Custody Coaches	80		
<b>FD</b>	Focussed Deterrence	40		
	Sports and Inclusion	130		
	Op Paramount	50		
	Stay True to You	50	60	300
<b>SEND</b>	Training for SEND schools	50		
	Blue Light Mentoring	3		3
	Sustainable Training			750
<b>Totals</b>		<b>823</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1050</b>

\* Note: Schools Navigators deliver during the academic year, with delivery monitored from 1 September 2024 – 31 March 2025



# Delivering against the Serious Violence Duty

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All our partners are now working as active members of the Violence Prevention Partnership, meeting the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.

Partners have now undertaken their first iteration of the Strategic Needs Assessment process, building their local understanding of serious violence in their communities, who it affects and the prevalence of risk and protective factors.

Their local plans have been published, setting out the structures and governance, their priorities and workstreams. Over the coming year we anticipate further tangible delivery against these action plans.

For the year ahead, partners must refresh those SNAs, making use of the analytical resources made available through *Thames Valley Together* and any other relevant data that becomes available, including engagement and consultation of their communities.

The Duty requires strong leadership at the local level, seeking to join up activity for greater impact and efficiency, working across organisational and system boundaries.

As the evidence from testing of interventions is presented to partners, we also hope to support shifts in approach, with strategic decision-making and commissioning supporting the adoption of these approaches.

## Contact us

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