
The Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy for Leicester City

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny
Commission

4th October 2022

Presented by Ivan Liburd

Aims and Objectives

To inform scrutiny members:

- How the strategy was developed
- Strategy recommendations
- Progress against the priorities

City Mayor Manifesto Commitment

- In the **City**, our pledge is to do more to **help prevent and deter** individuals and groups committing acts of serious violence and carrying/using knives.
- To ensure a **collaborative** approach with the **Community**, the **Violence Reduction Network**, **Partner Agencies** and **Voluntary Groups** to understand the causes of serious violence and the use of knives and develop a strategy that defines our approach
- To utilise this joined up, **coordinated approach** to confront serious violence and knife crime and to ensure that we **commit to early intervention, prevention and provision of services**

The Development of the Strategy

- Employed a designated officer to support and lead on the strategy
- Created stakeholder and community groups to drive the strategy
- Held public conversations with communities across Leicester
- Met with those who have lived experience
- Met with University criminology academics to discuss strategy
- Held an expert Session with specialist criminologist on this agenda
- Developed a strategy document from all feedback and launched it
- Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission of Leicester City Council
- Held meetings with ward councillors



Strategy Recommendations

The recommendations were developed after consultation with communities from across Leicester and with wider stakeholders and published in May 2022. Several key themes emerged when the feedback was analysed, therefore the recommendations have been group into six key themes.

- Education
- Young People
- Communities
- Partnership Working
- Employment and Training
- Policy and Process

Education

Recommendation 1 - Work with education establishments to minimise the number of school suspensions.

Foxes Friday

- LCC works with Leicester City in the Community offering one day a week provision for children who may be at risk of or vulnerable to 'youth offending'.
- Children are provided with a Leicester City in the community mentor who links in with them in school and access one day a week nurturing provision.



LEICESTER CITY
IN THE COMMUNITY

The Reach Project Early Help

- LCC have partnered with the Violence Reduction Network, Leicestershire County Council and the Home Office and developed a programme that identifies young people who are at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded from education.
- Currently delivered in 4 Secondary Schools across the city
- 58 Young People engaged in the programme so far, 34 males and 24 Females between the ages of 11 – 15



Education

Recommendation 2 - Monitor the use of and auditing of the alternative school provision across the city and use the Department of Education taskforce approach to develop the provision being offered in targeted secondary Pupil Referral Units.

- The Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce project is a pilot funded by the Department of Education (DfE).
- The taskforce brings together local partners drawn from across health, education, social care, youth services and youth justice to create the specialist taskforce in an alternative provision school (in this case Carisbrooke).
- Each Taskforce will focus on reducing truancy, NEET rates, involvement in serious violence, and improving mental health and well-being.

Press release

Targeted support for vulnerable young people in serious violence hotspots

Young people at risk of exploitation to be supported through 'taskforces' in 21 new areas.

From: [Department for Education and Vicky Ford MP](#)
Published 3 September 2021



Department
for Education

Education

Recommendation 3: Working with the VRN and communities, we will contribute to the development and delivery across all city schools of informal education programmes and campaigns focused on prevention, impact, consequences, and aspirations.

Supporting Families: Understanding the Impact of Parental Imprisonment

1. We now have a protocol in place for identifying families affected by imprisonment and a process for reaching out:
2. We are now able to collate some basic data on the number and location of families affected so we can start to better understand the prevalence of the issue.
3. We now have a training programme in place to enable workers to learn about the impact of imprisonment on families and the role they can play in providing support
4. We have a strong multi-agency working group in place. This has enabled the project to keep moving forwards and has supported a wider reach than would have been possible otherwise.



LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

The VCSO Network Event Agenda

AM	10:00	Arrival: Networking	PM	11:45	Welcome Back Curtis Matthews and Harvinder Pradhan (Community Leaders Network)
	10:30	Welcome from the VRN Team and the Community Leaders Network Working Together to Prevent Violence Cheryl Armstrong and Tim Walters (Community Leaders Network) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the Community Leadership Programme and Network• Next Programme: Culture Thesis The VRN Partnership: Progress So Far and Next Steps Grace Strong, Director, Violence Reduction Network		14:00	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Importance of being Trauma Informed and Building Relationships• The Potential and Pitfalls of Bad Minding• Strengthening your Communications and Social Media Strategy• Captivating Campaigns for young people <small>Each workshop is 45 minutes.</small>
	11:00	The new Serious Violence Legal Duty An Introduction to the Duty and the Role of Communities Sara Featherstone, Senior Policy Advisor, Serious Violence Unit, Home Office		14:50	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding ADHD in young people• Supporting Families: Understanding the Impact of Parental Imprisonment• What Works in Preventing Serious Violence?• The Power of Mindfulness, Kindfulness and Resilience
	11:20	With and For Communities—Co-Production Session Facilitated roundtable discussions to prepare for the Serious Violence Legal Duty Deborah Jones and Tim Martin, Jones Consulting Limited		15:35	Next Steps: The VRN Lisa Williams, Community and Young Person Involvement Officer, Violence Reduction Network
	13:00	Lunch		15:45	Networking Please bring along any leaflets and banners if you wish to share/promote your organisation/group
				16:30	End of Event

#PreventionThroughConnection
@VR_Network
www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk

Recently had a family member sent to prison?

Information Leaflet



Information, support and guidance for people who have had someone sent to prison



Young People

Recommendation 4 - We will work with the community to develop youth engagement workstreams to include street based, individual and targeted group sessions in local areas. Delivered through Early Help

Detached School Based Youth Work

Our detached school-based youth work model works with young people in secondary school education, in and around the schools of which they attend.

Detached Youth Work

Evening detached sessions responding to Police intelligence, to deliver informal education to young people in their community.

Workshops and Training

Workshops to schools on subjects such as knife crime awareness, conflict resolution, drugs and alcohol misuse, healthy relationships, and the challenges of social media.

Community Events

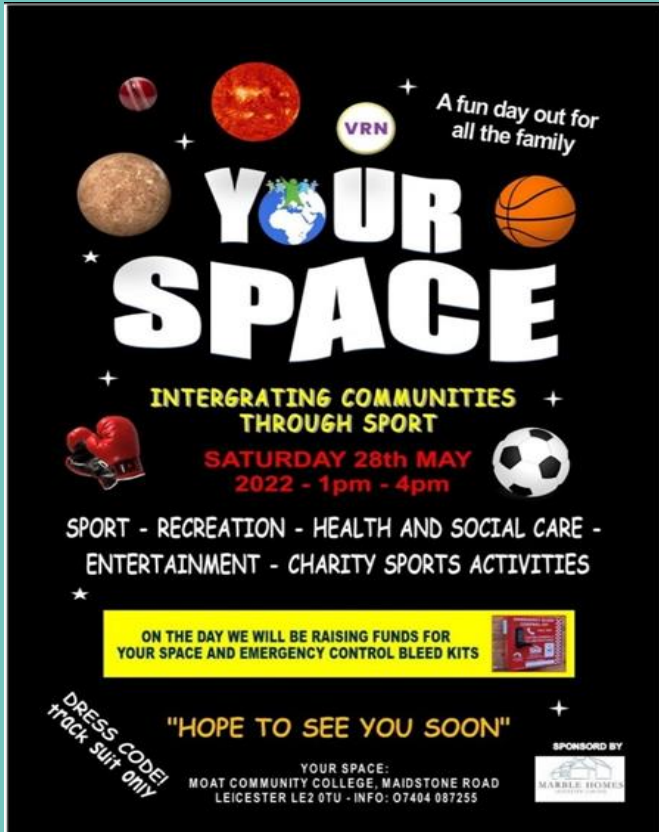
Obtaining the voices of young people



Communities

Recommendation 9 - We will work with the local authority estates team and across directorates to encourage free access or reduced hire fees at schools and local authority facilities, so these can be utilised by groups and vulnerable young people.

- Community created a strong partnership with Moat Community College to provide free access
- Hold community meetings, such as Community Gold (Open) which is police led.



Communities

Recommendation 14 – We will develop a community mentoring programme specifically targeting young people at risk of knife crime, either as a perpetrator or a victim. We will use the reach of local communities to engage young people and connect them to the resources and services they need.

Chance 2 Change

- Partnership funded project
- Support 15-25 year olds involved in violence or at high risk of involvement
- Those living in East/ West Leicester or Charnwood,
- Build trust and rapport with the young person tailoring support to their wishes and needs
- Act as a role model, educating and encouraging positive social norms and dispelling myths and stereotypes
- Offer emotional support and improve social skills



CHANCE 2 CHANGE

A partnership project to reduce Serious Youth Violence in Leicester & Leicestershire



Chance 2 Change

The Chance 2 Change (C2C) project is for young people aged 16-25 who are at risk or have already become involved in serious violent crime.

Street-based C2C mentors offer individualised support which aims to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors. They will help young people identify and understand the consequences and realities of criminal involvement and offer opportunities that encourage young people to change their behaviors and turn away from street-based violence.

Communities

Emergency Boxes

Recommendation a – We will develop a scheme that will see emergency kits/ bleed box kits placed across the city so that in an emergency, anyone will be able to be directed to the kit by 999 operators and talked through the process of use.

- Leicester City Council in partnership with the Ambulance service have developed an initiative and installed 8 Emergency Bleed Control Kits across the city.
- Training to community groups provided where the boxes are located



Community Parent Forum

Recommendation: b - We will work with communities to develop peer support directly from community members and groups with shared experiences. This will support parents who have either lost a child or have young people that are vulnerable to or involved in activities related to knife crime and serious violence.

- £7500 awarded to Kara Training community group to establish a Community Parent Forum.
- The Community Parent Forum will involve and support parents who have children involved in violence or at high risk of involvement due to associated activity and peer circles.
- Includes parents who are going through the repercussions of knife crime and serious violence.



Partnership Working

Recommendation 18 - In support of greater community resource, we will take a proactive approach to utilising available resources at local universities for volunteer support and placements. This could include community-based research and other community related projects.

The youth service works in partnership with De Montfort University and provides course placements and volunteer opportunities



Supported the University of Leicester to submit a for them to carry out a research that will obtain the views of young people across Leicester about serious violence and knife crime.



Employment and Training

Recommendation: 23, 24 and 25 - Support young people to gain employment, demonstrate commitment to ex-offender programmes which create employment, training, and social opportunities. Support current and potential programmes that provide ex-offenders and young people with opportunities to visit various workplaces and encourage exposure to employment opportunities, including Department of Work and Pensions programmes such as Kickstart.

The Employment Hub works in partnership with Futures, Connexions and the DWP to support people of all ages into employment and training including jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships and work placements.

Support for ex-offenders

Help finding work

Our Unlocking Opportunities page provides you with a range of live employment opportunities with employers who are committed to recruiting ex-offenders.

We'll support you every step of the way to increase your chances of gaining employment.

Click the link below to find out more.


We also recommend taking a minute to read our [Guide to finding work](#).

If you're not quite ready for work, we recommend contacting the [CIC Advice Hub](#), who provide a safe space for ex-offenders to build a healthier, more stable and fulfilling life.

[MORE ON UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Leicester Employment Hub


Working directly with employers and job seekers



Employers

Register with us for our free, impartial recruitment support and assistance with grants


[REGISTER FOR EMPLOYERS](#)




Job Seekers

Find out how we can help you gain employment including jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships and work placements

[INFORMATION FOR JOB SEEKERS](#)



Youth Employment Hub

 **European Union**
European Social Fund

We can help you find jobs, apprenticeships and courses.

If you're aged 18 - 24 and not in education, employment or training, please complete the form below and one of our team will be in touch.

If you're 25 or over we can still help you, visit our Job Seekers page for more details.

Visit the Youth Employment Hub at:
2 Wellington Street, Leicester LE1 6HL
9am - 4:30pm Monday to Thursday
9am - 4pm Friday

Local Picture

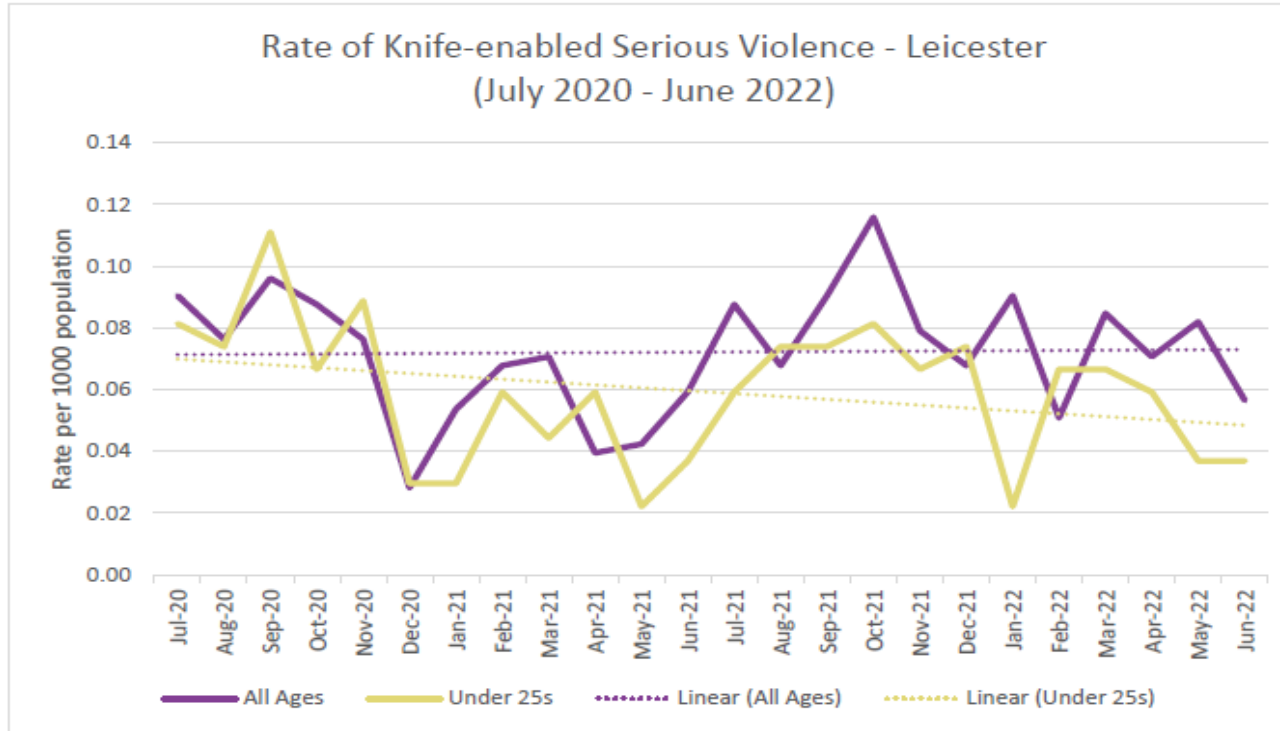


Figure 2: Rate of knife-enabled serious violence offences in public places across Leicester, all ages and under 25s (July 2020 – June 2022) (Source: Leicestershire Police)

Next Steps

- Develop an Operational Serious Violence and Knife Crime group to ensure that all of the recommendations in the strategy are achieved.
- Work with the Police and VRN to acquire real time data.
- Develop a communication strategy with the Police to ensure PPNs and Early Intervention referrals are completed
- A joined up approach with School Liaison officers and the Police to identify young people at risk of serious violence.
- Ensure all workstreams are gathered and reported into the Safer Leicester Partnership Executive Board

Any Questions?