

LEADERS
UNLOCKED

West Yorkshire Youth Commission on Violence & Exploitation

Priority Aims 2023

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REHABILITATION & PREVENTION



OUR AIMS

- Conduct peer research with young people with lived experience of the CJS to understand the **key barriers to rehabilitation**, such as lack of mental health support and diversionary opportunities.
- Investigate what young people think are **effective methods of prevention from crime**.
- Raise awareness of, and work to **reduce discrimination against young people in the CJS**, including prejudice, racism, and transphobia and unconscious bias.
- Highlight the harms and risks to **young people living with or related to offenders**, including stigma in the community.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS & LIFE



OUR AIMS

- Explore how the **cost-of-living crisis** is affecting young people's lives and communities in relation to violence and exploitation.
- Promote the **impact of positive role models** within the community and highlight the risk of exploitation when these are missing.
- Explore how **family and community relationships** affect young people's exposure to violence.
- Investigate what positive **community opportunities young people would like** more of and the barriers they may face in accessing services.
- Develop a campaign to **promote positive community messages** tackling violence and exploitation in West Yorkshire.

ATTITUDES & VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN



OUR AIMS

- Work with the VRU to make West Yorkshire a safer and more inclusive place for women and girls.
- Challenge harmful attitudes and objectification towards women, including educating both professionals and young people on the **harmful effects of image-based sexual abuse**.
- Raise awareness of existing safety initiatives in West Yorkshire, such as **Street Angels** and '**Ask for Angela**' and research what else is needed to feel safe in public spaces.
- Hold **inclusive conversations around gender violence**, including listening to the perspectives of young males and underrepresented groups such as the LGBTQ+ community.

GANGS, DRUGS & KNIFE CRIME



OUR AIMS

- Educate young people on **joint enterprise** and the risks associated with gangs and knife crime.
- Investigate alternative ways young people can **feel safe from gang crime and knife violence**.
- Raise awareness of the root causes of drug and gang crime and encourage authorities to take a **harm-reduction approach** towards young people.
- Advocate for **stronger support for victims** of knife and gang crime, including for friends and families of victims.
- Explore young people's trust and confidence in Police and raise awareness of anonymous reporting and for those seeking support.