



West Yorkshire

**Violence Reduction  
Partnership**

# **Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment**

**March 2026**

Authored by the Violence Reduction Partnership

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# Foreword

The Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, has made tackling serious violence a key priority for the county, developing a dedicated strategy.

It has been shaped by five thousand responses to a public consultation, highlighting key themes of knife crime, the impact of gangs and organised crime, and violence against women and girls.

The Violence Reduction Partnership's Strategic Needs Assessment 26/27 complements this long-term strategy. It ensures that we understand the critical issues, delivering the right support at the right times and in the right places.

The Violence Reduction Partnership has now become one of the most established in the country, leading on innovative research and delivering interventions grounded in evidence.

Evolving over the years, the VRP is a trusted source of knowledge and learning, supporting a network of partners to respond to a constantly evolving landscape.

It is with this experience that we are able to operate with an ever-increasing degree of clarity and decisiveness, recognising both the challenges and seeking the best solutions.

Tackling serious violence cannot be achieved by one agency alone and it is only by working together that we can respond and adapt to meet the expectations of our communities.

Many of our partners are bound by a 'Serious Violence Duty', which places legal requirements upon them to deal with the issues that cause our neighbourhoods the greatest harm.

The Duty has forged greater collaboration, allowing us to quickly embed new tactics, such as Young Futures Panels. These help to identify 10 to 17-year-olds in need of support who may otherwise fall through the net and intervene by referring them into a range of support services much earlier.

At the heart of our response must be our communities. This means listening to their needs, identifying the issues, and working in co-production to deal with the underlying causes and influential factors.

Our 'Child First' approach also puts the experiences of children and young people at the centre of our decision making, shaping everything we do.

All this contributes to understanding the bigger picture, enabling us to make an accurate assessment of what needs to be done to ensure a fairer, safer West Yorkshire.

We remain laser focused on achieving the national ambition of halving knife crime and violence against women and girls in the next decade and this document is another significant milestone in achieving it

**Director of the West Yorkshire  
Violence Reduction Partnership**

**T/ Chief Superintendent, Heather  
Wilson**



# Introduction

This West Yorkshire strategic needs assessment (SNA) provides a refreshed baseline and shared understanding of the reality of violence in West Yorkshire through the analysis of a comprehensive suite of local and national data. Central to this understanding is:

- What is the shape of the problem;
- Where is it taking place;
- When is it taking place;
- Who is involved; and,
- Why is it happening.

Setting out our understanding of the problem of violence in this way is critical to the success of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership and our partners.

The [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#) outlines new duties in respect to serious violence. This specific new Serious Violence Duty (SVD) requires specified authorities, known as duty holders, to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

To support duty holders, we have developed five district level profiles to identify localised issues. We have provided the key findings from each of these profiles within this document. The findings of this SNA and respective district level profiles should be used to assist named duty holders with preparing and delivering a needs-focused action plan to reduce serious violence as required by the SVD.

The information presented has been provided through effective data sharing practices by partner agencies, to which we are grateful, as

tackling serious violence requires a collective and partnership driven response.

The document should be read in conjunction with the influential factors evidence synthesis.

## Definition of violence

The Home Office outlined three key success measures for VRPs:

- I. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- II. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- III. A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Beyond these three success measures, the Home Office allowed for flexibility for VRPs to adopt a broader definition of serious violence. As a partnership, we developed a broader, vision, definition and framework of success measures which also allows a response to the Serious Violence Duty:

*“Violence and serious violence includes specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community”.*

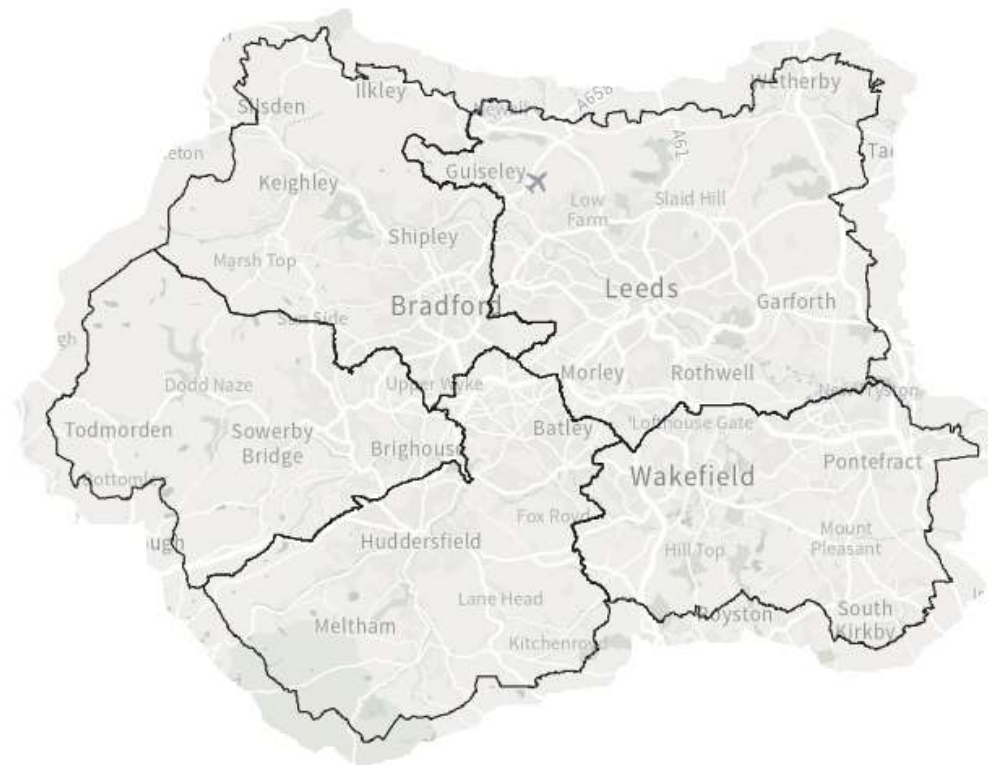
## Cost of violence

The costs of each serious violence offence type in West Yorkshire has been estimated by multiplying the number of recorded crimes between July 2024 and June 2025 by the unit cost of crime provided by the Home Office.

These unit costs have been adjusted to factor in inflation rates since the publication of the original costs in 2018. Please note this figure of inflation is an estimate that has been calculated using the Bank of England Inflation Calculator.

The overall estimated cost for Serious Violence in West Yorkshire is <b>£1,309,026,989</b>	
Homicide	£115,904,256
Other Sexual Offences	£59,605,938
Rape	£234,910,932
Robbery	£53,573,128
Violence with Injury	£480,221,015
Violence without Injury	£364,811,720

TABLE 1 - OVERALL ESTIMATED COST FOR SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN WEST YORKSHIRE



# Performance

The Violence Reduction Partnership are measured against three core measures by the Home Office;

- I. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- II. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- III. A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Compared to 2018/19 levels (prior to VRP funding) we have seen a reduction in all of the measures. Knife enabled serious violence against those under 25 fell by 17.9% with the change in the last 12 months showing a decrease of 5.6%. Hospital admissions for assaults by a sharp object (again, against those under 25) showed a decrease of 7.1%.

There has been a reduction of 32% in non-domestic homicides since 2018/19, with numbers declining in both victim age groups.

Crime Measures	2018/19	2023/24	2024/25	Change on last year	Change on 2018/19
<b>Knife-enabled serious violence</b>	2595	2276	2244	-1.4%	-13.5%
with victim aged under 25	982	854	806	-5.6%	-17.9%
<b>Non-domestic homicides</b>	25	18	17	-5.6%	-32.0%
knife-enabled with victim under 25	4	4	3	-25.0%	-25.0%

Hospital Admissions for assaults by a sharp object (ages 0 – 25)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change on last year	Change on 2019
<b>West Yorkshire Hospitals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>65</b>	-7.1%	-7.1%
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	45	45	50	45	50	35		
Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust	10	15	10	10	10	15		
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10	10	15	10	10	10		
Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	5	0	5	5	0	5		
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Please note, hospital admissions data has been rounded to the nearest 5 and is shown for all West Yorkshire hospitals – the adjacent table is based on rounded numbers.

TABLE 2 - HOME OFFICE MEASURES

An overview of all violent crime can be found in the following table, which shows a breakdown of violent crime in the 12 months ending June 2025, and how those numbers compare to both the previous year and the last year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Offences	Recorded crime Jul-24 to Jun-25	Per 1,000 population	Non-recent	DA	Victim under 25	Victim under 18	Knife enabled	Public space	Recorded crime change on previous 12 months	Recorded crime change on 2018/19
<b>Violence against the person</b>	<b>115,837</b>	<b>49.26</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
Homicide	26	0.01	3.8%	34.6%	38.5%	26.9%	19.2%	28.6%	13.0%	-7.1%
Violence with injury	24,671	10.49	2.7%	35.4%	29.5%	16.2%	3.9%	46.4%	-3.4%	-13.7%
Attempted murder	44	0.02	2.3%	15.9%	31.8%	13.6%	56.8%	43.6%	41.9%	33.3%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	2,047	0.87	4.3%	27.6%	26.1%	11.6%	22.9%	58.4%	4.7%	6.2%
Violence without injury	44,408	18.88	3.1%	29.3%	34.2%	24.0%	0.9%	38.9%	0.5%	5.0%
Stalking and harassment	46,593	19.81	10.0%	40.7%	23.4%	9.8%	0.0%	18.7%	0.7%	24.7%
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>3,416</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>85.0%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>-12.3%</b>
Robbery of business property	804	0.34	0.0%	0.0%	13.2%	0.4%	17.0%	97.6%	91.9%	77.9%
Robbery of personal property	2,612	1.11	0.5%	5.1%	38.3%	22.3%	26.5%	81.1%	-5.8%	-24.1%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	<b>10,914</b>	<b>4.64</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>
Rape	4,308	1.83	36.1%	45.0%	51.9%	33.8%	0.8%	14.9%	10.4%	25.3%
Other sexual offences	6,606	2.81	18.3%	13.5%	63.5%	50.6%	0.2%	27.2%	10.1%	28.1%
<b>Arson</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>-26.8%</b>
Arson endangering life	204	0.09	1.5%	12.7%	9.8%	1.0%	0.0%	20.4%	8.5%	-16.7%
<b>Possession of weapons</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>67.5%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>
<b>Knife crime</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>56.3%</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>
Robbery of business property	137	0.06	0.0%	0.0%	19.0%	1.5%	100.0%	94.7%	3.0%	-21.7%
Robbery of personal property	691	0.29	0.1%	1.7%	52.4%	27.6%	100.0%	79.7%	-8.1%	-11.4%
Homicide	5	0.00	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%	20.0%	100.0%	25.0%	-61.5%	-37.5%
Attempted murder	25	0.01	0.0%	16.0%	24.0%	12.0%	100.0%	37.5%	66.7%	177.8%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	469	0.20	0.9%	22.4%	34.3%	16.8%	100.0%	54.7%	2.2%	-13.0%
Assault with injury	451	0.19	2.7%	44.3%	27.3%	16.4%	100.0%	32.2%	-7.2%	-21.6%
Threats to kill	399	0.17	2.0%	36.3%	25.6%	16.0%	100.0%	34.2%	15.3%	-9.9%
<b>Firearms crime (serious violence)</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>64.5%</b>	<b>-31.6%</b>	<b>-24.7%</b>
<b>Serious violence</b>	<b>7,048</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>31.8%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>-6.0%</b>

TABLE 3 - OVERVIEW OF ALL VIOLENT CRIME

The last year saw a slight decrease in numbers of violence against the person offences (-0.3%), but this was a 6.9% increase on the 2018/19 baseline.

Robbery increased in the last year (7%) but remained at lower levels than 2018/19. Specifically, within the Robbery grouping, it was robbery of business property which increased, with numbers almost doubling, while robberies of personal property declined (-5.8%). The majority of business robberies took place in shop locations (88%) where members of staff were assaulted or threatened, and the increase is largely explained by changes to crime recording practices rather than an increase in this type of crime. Where a knife was used during the commission of a robbery, this was down on 2018/19 figures for both business and personal robbery offences, but offence numbers did increase slightly for business robbery. Numbers of personal robberies involving a knife were lower than last year (-8.1%).

Overall knife crime was lower than last year (-1.4%) and 2018/19 (-13.9%), but within this there were increases in some crime types (robbery of business property, attempted murder, assaults with intent to cause serious harm and threats to kill) and decreases in others (robbery of personal property, homicide and assaults with injury).

Numbers of serious violence offences involving firearms are lower than last year (-31.6%) and 2018/19 (-24.7%).

The improvement in data quality issues relating to 'location qualifiers' has continued this year – these data flags are used to denote the type of place an offence took place at. However, some caution should still be applied to conclusions drawn from the public space flagging.

Whilst the Home Office core measures look to those under 25, we have separately explored violence against children (those under 18) – the following table shows a breakdown in offences with a victim who was aged under 18. Increases in some of the most serious offence types involving small numbers have resulted in large percentage increases, such as homicide and attempted murder. It should be noted that this year there were multiple child victims of a fatal arson incident which have impacted on the number of child victims of homicide.

Offences against children	Recorded crime Jul-24 to Jun-25	Non-recent	DA	Knife enabled	Public space	Recorded crime change on previous 12 months	Recorded crime change on 2018/19
<b>Violence against the person</b>	<b>19,235</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>
Homicide	7	0.0%	42.9%	14.3%	33.3%	250.0%	250.0%
Violence with injury	3,994	3.8%	11.2%	3.9%	52.7%	-9.6%	-24.9%
Attempted murder	6	0.0%	16.7%	50.0%	40.0%	500.0%	20.0%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	238	7.1%	8.4%	33.2%	66.8%	-3.6%	11.2%
Violence without injury	10,636	8.1%	8.3%	0.6%	26.6%	6.1%	55.4%
Stalking and harassment	4,582	10.7%	15.9%	0.0%	21.8%	1.8%	24.3%
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>32.9%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>-22.6%</b>	<b>-10.1%</b>
Robbery of business property	3	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	100.0%	-62.5%	50.0%
Robbery of personal property	583	0.7%	0.5%	32.8%	96.4%	-22.2%	-10.3%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>34.3%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
Rape	1,455	54.4%	18.3%	0.8%	19.8%	14.6%	-0.1%
Other sexual offences	3,340	25.6%	4.4%	0.1%	20.0%	6.7%	7.7%
<b>Arson</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>	<b>-23.1%</b>
Arson endangering life	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	-60.0%	-66.7%
<b>Possession of weapons</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>76.9%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-8.5%</b>
<b>Knife crime</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>74.1%</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Robbery of business property	2	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-60.0%	
Robbery of personal property	191	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	96.6%	-27.7%	-1.5%
Homicide	1	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Attempted murder	3	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	33.3%	200.0%	200.0%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	79	1.3%	5.1%	100.0%	73.6%	27.4%	36.2%
Assault with injury	74	4.1%	18.9%	100.0%	45.5%	10.4%	-28.8%
Threats to kill	64	3.1%	10.9%	100.0%	42.9%	64.1%	33.3%
<b>Firearms crime (serious violence)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>73.0%</b>	<b>-42.7%</b>	<b>-44.2%</b>
<b>Serious violence</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>79.7%</b>	<b>-14.5%</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>

TABLE 4 - OVERVIEW OF OFFENCES WITH A VICTIM UNDER 18

We have also separately explored violent crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls (VAWG) – the following table shows a breakdown in offences and the proportion where women and girls were victims. Many of the crime types which disproportionately affect women and girls such as sexual offences and stalking and harassment have increased. Non-recent offences are those that have been reported more than a year after they occurred.

VAWG Offences	All recorded crime Jul24-Jun25	Non - recent	Crimes with female victim	Crimes with female victim aged under 18	Crimes with a female victim - per 1,000 female population	DA	DA crimes with a female victim	Public space	Cyber-enabled	Recorded crime change on previous 12 months	Recorded crime change on 2018/19
<b>Violence against the person</b>	115698	5.8%	54.7%	7.8%	52.27	35.2%	45.8%	32.4%	4.6%	-0.3%	6.9%
Female genital mutilation	3	33.3%	100.0%	33.3%	0.00					-57.1%	-78.6%
Forced marriage offences	34	26.5%	80.6%	32.3%	0.02					-20.9%	-12.8%
Intentional strangulation (from 2022/23)	2043	7.8%	76.7%	5.9%	1.30	79.0%	87.7%	13.9%	0.2%	15.6%	
Stalking and harassment	46593	10.0%	65.3%	5.8%	25.06	40.7%	46.8%	18.7%	11.1%	0.7%	24.7%
Controlling or coercive behaviour	4338	28.7%	81.2%	4.7%	2.92	98.8%	98.7%	3.1%	0.8%	26.5%	111.0%
Harassment	28033	8.1%	60.7%	6.5%	13.97	16.1%	18.4%	23.6%	10.5%	5.0%	70.3%
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	1129	8.9%	48.9%	8.5%	0.46	4.7%	7.1%	33.2%	6.6%	16.3%	160.7%
Stalking	10255	9.7%	75.8%	3.1%	6.46	91.6%	91.1%	12.8%	14.6%	6.2%	883.2%
Malicious communications	2838	1.2%	54.5%	8.9%	1.26	25.4%	29.3%	7.2%	21.5%	-48.7%	-83.6%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	10914	25.4%	81.5%	35.9%	7.04	25.9%	30.2%	22.4%	10.8%	10.2%	27.0%
Rape	4308	36.1%	89.8%	29.5%	3.17	45.0%	48.5%	14.9%	0.7%	10.4%	25.3%
Other sexual offences	6606	18.3%	75.8%	40.3%	3.87	13.5%	15.3%	27.2%	17.4%	10.1%	28.1%
Abuse of children through sexual exploitation	104	33.7%	63.2%	63.2%	0.04	2.9%	6.3%	3.6%	48.1%	-9.6%	25.3%
Sexual grooming	338	6.8%	71.6%	69.5%	0.12	0.6%	1.4%	11.0%	51.8%	5.6%	28.0%
Exposure & Voyeurism	608	3.9%	74.0%	11.3%	0.35	7.4%	9.1%	51.4%	12.8%	33.3%	74.7%
Cyber flashing (from 2023/24)	100	4.0%	74.7%	14.1%	0.06	10.0%	10.8%	3.4%	100.0%	300%	
<b>Indecent Images of Children offences (IIOC)</b>	2591	14.8%	63.2%	58.3%	0.29	0.9%	3.7%		63.4%	14.8%	76.7%
<b>Public Order</b>	26085	0.8%	47.9%	3.5%	9.13	6.8%	10.8%	74.9%		-8.8%	-12.7%
Other offences against the State or public order	3544	2.4%	70.8%	3.5%	0.60	16.1%	53.2%	63.0%		3.5%	-5.0%
Act of Outraging Public Decency	323	0.9%	61.8%	9.8%	0.09	0.0%	0.0%	86.7%		20.5%	-2.7%

TABLE 5 – OVERVIEW OF OFFENCES THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT WOMEN & GIRLS

The Violence Reduction Partnership applies a Child First lens to our approach – treating ‘children as children’. Understanding the data relating to children specifically allows us to begin to better understand their needs as the foundation for how children should be understood, treated, and supported.

When considering your response to this needs assessment we encourage you to make use of our [Child First Framework](#). This framework was co-produced with over 450 children from across West Yorkshire and outlines how they think Child First should be implemented effectively.

This includes:

- Allowing children to help shape strategic direction
- Creating a culture of meaningful engagement with children
- Closing the feedback loop
- Tips to make engagement successful

This can be factored into your response plans, with specific sections considering when and how children will be involved at each phase. If this is something you would like support with, please get in touch with the VRP Knowledge Hub.

Violence against the person offences with a child victim increased slightly by 1.5% in the last year, across most offence groups.

Knife crime and serious violence committed against children decreased this year, by 6.8% and 14.5% respectively. However, the decrease was largely due to a reduction in robberies against children (after these crimes were at the highest level in 5 years last year).

There were increases in some other offence types: attempted murders, including those involving a knife, and assaults and threats where knives were involved also increased.

Adverse childhood experiences, including physical and emotional abuse and neglect, are known to be influential factors for violence. To better understand some of these factors we have explored child cruelty offences this year. These crimes involve children being assaulted, mistreated, neglected or abandoned by someone who has responsibility for looking after them. Numbers of this type of crime have increased over the last five years; some of this can be explained by improved awareness and better recording of this type of crime.



## Bradford

Bradford boasts a rich industrial heritage and diverse cultural tapestry. From the historic Saltaire Village to the bustling City Park, this area seamlessly blends tradition with modernity, offering a vibrant community and a thriving economy. Last year Bradford took on the prestigious title of UK City of Culture 2025.

From 2011 to 2021, the population size increased by 5% to 546,400. 51% of the population in Bradford are female and 49% are male, a slight increase in the percentage of female residents since the 2011 census. There has been a 20% increase in people aged 65 years and over, a 2% increase in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 2% in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Bradford, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Numbers of serious violence and knife crime offences were at a five year high – although both were lower than in 2018/19.
- There was an increase in homicide and attempted murder offences, some of which involved the use of knives in public space.
- The rise in serious violence was largely due to robbery offences – both personal and business robberies increased, including those involving knives.
- Numbers of business robberies more than doubled – most of these were thefts from shops where staff were assaulted or threatened. The increase in this type of crime is thought to be largely due to changes to crime recording, rather than there being more crime.
- The use of machetes in knife crime has become an increasing cause for concern; in Bradford 10% of knife crime involved this type of weapon.
- Assaults and threats against children that involved knives increased.
- Over half (57%) of child victims of serious violence were boys aged between 14 and 17 and this increased to 60% of knife crime against children.

- Three quarters of non-domestic serious violence occurred in public spaces such as streets, parks and hospitality locations – key times were 4pm to 8pm on Wednesday through to Saturday, with Friday and Saturday key days where children were victims.
- Most offenders in violent crime were male (83%). Over half (58%) of adult offenders were unemployed.
- Many of the crimes that disproportionately affect women & girls increased – recent rape offences (those reported within a year of being committed) increased by 23% with recent rape offences against children increasing by 40%.
- Street harassment against women and girls was mostly concentrated in city and town centres along with other types of public order crime, however there were other areas identified where numbers of female victims of this type of abuse were disproportionately high.
- Child cruelty offences rose by 41% in the last year. Recent child cruelty offences were more than eight times higher than numbers four years ago - increases are thought to be largely due to better awareness and improved crime recording.
- Key Location MSOAs are: Keighley Central & East; Keighley Oakworth Road & West Lane; Keighley Exley Head; Shipley Town; Eccleshill; Ravenscliffe; Manningham & Lister Park; Shearbridge & University; Broomfields & East Bowling; Holme Top; Holme Wood; Bierley & Tong; Wyke; Barkerend West & Little Germany and Central Bradford.
- Keighley Oakworth Road & West Lane, Shearbridge & University, Broomfields & East Bowling, Wyke and Central Bradford are also key locations for West Yorkshire as a whole.



## Calderdale

Calderdale, characterised by its picturesque landscapes and charming market towns, is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. With the vibrant Halifax Piece Hall and the rolling hills of the South Pennines, Calderdale is a perfect blend of natural beauty and cultural richness.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 1.4% to 206,600. 51% of the population in Calderdale are female and 49% are male, little change since the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 21% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 3% decrease in those aged 15 to 64 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Calderdale, highlighting some of our key observations:

- This year serious violence and knife crime in Calderdale reached a five year low and numbers were still lower than in 2018/19.
- Most offences reduced, except for business robberies which more than doubled – most of these were thefts from shops where staff were assaulted or threatened albeit the increase in business robberies is thought to be largely due to changes to crime recording, rather than there being more crime.
- While overall serious violence against children was at a five-year low due to fewer robberies, knife enabled assaults and threats against children increased.
- 13% of serious violence was against children, rising to 21% for knife crime.
- Over half (60%) of child victims of serious violence were boys aged between 13 and 17 and this increased to 73% of child victims of knife crime.
- The use of machetes in knife crime has become an increasing cause for concern; in Calderdale 13% of knife crime involved this type of weapon.

- Over three quarters of non-domestic serious violence occurred in public spaces such as streets, parks and hospitality locations – key times were Friday and Saturday evenings after 4pm.
- Most offenders committing violent crime were male (81%).
- Over half (59%) of adult offenders were unemployed.
- Many of the crimes that disproportionately affect women & girls increased – including controlling and coercive behaviour, stalking and exposure & voyeurism offences.
- Street harassment against women and girls was mostly concentrated in city and town centres along with other types of public order crime, however there were other areas identified where numbers of female victims of this type of abuse were disproportionately high.
- Numbers of child cruelty offences were nearly five times higher than they were four years ago, despite a small reduction this year. Increases in this type of crime are thought to be largely due to better awareness and improved crime recording.
- Key location MSOAs overall are Illingworth & Ogden, Mixenden, Wheatley & Ovenden West, Ovenden East, Central Halifax & Boothtown, Pellon West & Highroad Well, Pellon East, Todmorden West & Cornholme, Brighouse, Sowerby & Luddendenfoot, Rastrick West and Elland.
- Ovenden East is also a key location for West Yorkshire as a whole.



## Kirklees

Home to the iconic Huddersfield and the stunning Colne Valley, Kirklees is a cultural hub and an educational centre. With a mix of urban and rural landscapes, it provides a dynamic setting for creativity and learning, attracting both residents and visitors alike.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 3% to 433,400. 51% of the population in Kirklees are female and 49% are male, little change since the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 20% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 1% decrease in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a 1.1% increase in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Kirklees, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Overall serious violence and knife crime reduced over the last year and remained below levels in 2018/19. This reduction was driven by fewer personal robberies, which reached a five year low, and fewer assaults and threats involving knives.
- However, there were increases in some types of serious violence – there were more business robberies which increased by 58%, and homicides, attempted murders, arson that endangered life and serious domestic assaults also increased.
- Most business robberies involved thefts from shops where staff were assaulted or threatened - the increase in this type of crime is thought to be largely due to changes to crime recording, rather than there being more crime.
- Knife crime against children increased by 33%, mainly due to assaults and threats that involved use of a knife. 15% of serious violence, and 21% of knife crime, had victims who were children.
- The use of machetes in knife crime has become an increasing cause for concern; in Kirklees 11% of knife crime involved this type of weapon.
- 58% of child victims of serious violence were boys aged between 13 and 17 – for knife crime this group made up 65% of child victims.

- Most offenders committing violent crime were male (77%) - over half (56%) of adult offenders were unemployed.
- Almost three quarters of non-DA serious violence occurred in public spaces such as streets, parks and hospitality locations, with key times being Friday and Saturday nights and early evenings across all days where children were victims.
- Many of the crimes that disproportionately affect women & girls increased – including controlling and coercive behaviour, exposure & voyeurism and child sexual exploitation.
- Street harassment against women and girls was mostly concentrated in city and town centres along with other types of public order crime, however there were other areas identified where numbers of female victims of this type of abuse were disproportionately high.
- Child cruelty offences rose by 13% in the last year. Numbers of recent child cruelty offences were almost four times higher than they were four years ago - increases are thought to be largely due to better awareness and improved crime recording.
- Key Location MSOAs overall are Birstall, Wilton Park Carlinghow & Brookroyd, Batley Central, Dewsbury Moor Upper, Dewsbury Central & Westborough, Earlsheaton & Chickenley, Dewsbury Moor Lower & Westtown, Battyeford, Ravensthorpe, Huddersfield Leeds Road & Fartown, Rawthorpe, Paddock & Greenhead, Moldgreen & Ravensknowle Park and Aspley Longley & University.
- Huddersfield Leeds Road & Fartown is also a key location for West Yorkshire as a whole.



## Leeds

As a dynamic metropolis, Leeds is a vibrant hub of commerce, culture, and innovation. From the historic Leeds Dock to the bustling city centre, this cosmopolitan area embraces diversity and progress, offering an active lifestyle and a thriving business environment.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 8% to 812,000. 51% of the population in Leeds are female and 49% are male, little change from the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 16% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 5% increase in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a 12% increase in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Leeds, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Serious violence reached a five year high with increases across most -offence types.
- Business robberies increased by 86% – most of these were thefts from shops where staff were assaulted or threatened. The increase in this type of crime is thought to be largely due to changes to crime recording, rather than there being more crime.
- Knife crime numbers were similar to last year, though certain knife-enabled crimes such as attempted murder, serious assaults, threats to kill and business robberies rose, while numbers of knife-enabled homicides and personal robberies reduced.
- Serious violence and knife crime against children reduced after a peak in numbers last year. This reduction was due to fewer robberies – knife enabled assaults and threats increased.
- 17% of serious violence and 22% of knife crime had a child victim.
- Almost three quarters (71%) of child victims of serious violence were boys aged between 13 and 17 and this increased to 75% of knife crime against children.
- The use of machetes in knife crime has become an increasing cause for concern; in Leeds 16% of knife crime involved this type of weapon.
- Most non-domestic serious violence occurred in public spaces such as streets, parks and hospitality locations – key times were Thursday and

Friday evenings between 4pm and 8pm, which was also a key period for offences against children.

- Most offenders in violent crime were male (89%). Over half (61%) of adult offenders were unemployed.
- Many of the crimes that disproportionately affect women & girls increased, such as controlling and coercive behaviour, stalking & harassment and sexual offences, including grooming and exposure & voyeurism.
- Street harassment against women and girls was mostly concentrated in city and town centres along with other types of public order crime, however there were other areas identified where numbers of female victims of this type of abuse were disproportionately high.
- Numbers of child cruelty offences were more than five times higher than they were four years ago. Increases in this type of crime are thought to be largely due to better awareness and improved crime recording.
- Key Location MSOAs are Seacroft North & Monkswood, Hollin Park & Fearnville, Chapel Allerton South & Chapeltown, Harehills North and Harehills South, Woodhouse & Little London, Lincoln Green & St James, Burmantofts, Armley & New Wortley, East End Park & Richmond Hill, Beeston Hill & Hunslet Moor, Cross Flats Park & Garnets, Beeston West & Cottingley, Belle Isle North, Middleton Park Avenue and Leeds City Centre.
- Chapel Allerton South & Chapeltown, Harehills North, Lincoln Green & St James, Burmantofts and Leeds City Centre are also key locations for West Yorkshire as a whole.



## Wakefield

With its blend of historic charm and contemporary development, Wakefield is a city on the rise. The striking Hepworth Wakefield and the medieval Sandal Castle showcase its cultural and historical significance, while ongoing regeneration projects contribute to its promising future.

From 2011 to 2021 the population size increased by 8% to 353,300. 51% of the population in Wakefield are female and 49% are male, little change since the 2011 census. Since 2011, there has been a 21% increase in residents aged 65 years and over, a 5% increase in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 11% in children aged under 15 years.

The following points have been drawn from our local profile analysis for Wakefield, highlighting some of our key observations:

- Serious violence has increased for four consecutive years, with most offence categories rising except homicide and personal robbery.
- Knife crime has had minor fluctuations in numbers since a peak in 2021/22, with a slight overall reduction last year.
- However, some categories of assaults and threats to kill involving knives increased, while knife-enabled robberies and other types of assaults reduced.
- The use of machetes in knife crime has become an increasing cause for concern; in Wakefield 13% of knife crime involved this type of weapon.
- 22% of serious violence was domestic abuse (DA) related – Wakefield is the district with the highest proportion of DA serious violence.
- Wakefield had the lowest proportion of serious violence with a child victim – 12% rising to 13% for knife crime.
- Serious violence against children reduced overall by 20%, driven by fewer robberies. Assaults against children involving knives increased.
- Over half (53%) of child victims of serious violence were boys aged between 14 and 17 and this increased to 57% for knife crime.
- Almost three quarters of non-DA serious violence occurred in public spaces such as streets, parks and hospitality locations, with key times

being Friday and Saturday nights after 8pm and early evenings across all days, especially where children were victims.

- Most offenders in violent crime were male (77%). Over half (60%) of adult offenders were unemployed.
- In Wakefield there were a larger proportion of female offenders in robberies than in other districts (30% compared to between 8% and 12% in other areas).
- Many of the crimes that disproportionately affect women & girls increased, including controlling & coercive behaviour and sexual offences including recent rape and exposure and voyeurism.
- Street harassment against women and girls was mostly concentrated in city and town centres along with other types of public order crime, however there were other areas identified where numbers of female victims of this type of abuse were disproportionately high.
- Child cruelty offences rose by 33% in the last year. Recent child cruelty offences were more than seven times higher than numbers four years ago - increases are thought to be largely due to better awareness and improved crime recording.
- Key Location MSOAs are Ferry Fryston, Castleford Town, Castleford West, Glasshoughton, Ferrybridge & West Knottingley, Pontefract North West, Normanton West, Wakefield Central, Pontefract South East, Wakefield St John's, Eastmoor, Alverthorpe & Flanshaw, Lupset, Featherstone, Agbrigg & Belle Isle and Moorthorpe.
- Pontefract North West and Wakefield Central are locations of concern both on a district and a West Yorkshire wide level.



# Community Voice

## Youth Voice Census

The Youth Voice Census 2025, run between March and June, aimed to amplify the voices of young people aged 11-30 to provide insights into their experiences, challenges, and aspirations in their local area, health and wellbeing and education, employment and training. 997 young people from West Yorkshire responded to the Census, out of 8,278 young people nationally.

### Community safety & belonging

41% of West Yorkshire respondents felt crime and violence was a key worry for the country, compared to 43% nationally.

When thinking about their local area, West Yorkshire respondents were most worried about crime and violence (37%), environmental issues (25%) and safety (23%).

54% felt very safe or safe in their local area, with only 8% saying they felt very unsafe or unsafe. This indicates that West Yorkshire young people feel safer in their local area than the national picture. However, young people with additional needs felt less safe, with only 28% saying they felt very safe or safe.

Within their local area, 66% feel welcome, 59% feel they belong, and 59% feel they can be themselves. However, vulnerable young people, including those on free school meals and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, report lower belonging and higher isolation.

Despite feeling safe in their local area, only 39% of young people felt there were adults they could turn to if something went wrong in their neighbourhood. Only 53% of young people felt there were opportunities for them in their local area. Youth clubs (39%) and youth hubs (13% said these were available) were scarce for young people in West Yorkshire limiting the opportunities available for positive engagement.

Furthermore, young people in West Yorkshire don't feel there are opportunities to share their views on important issues in their local area (73% no or unsure).

### Transport

Transport is a significant area of pressure for young people in West Yorkshire and was reported as the second biggest barrier to employment. For some young people (14%) public transport in their local area does not feel safe. 27% of young people had experienced bullying during travel sometimes or once and 16% had experienced discrimination during travel. These findings suggest that public spaces and transport may be areas of vulnerability for young people in the region.

## Education and Wellbeing

13% of young people had been excluded from school, which is slightly higher than the national average. 60% of West Yorkshire respondents reported some disruption to their education over the last year. This disruption was mainly down to disruptive classroom behaviour. Exclusion and disruption to education are strong indicators of vulnerability to serious violence.

In addition, 2% of respondents were not in education, employment or training (NEET) and their confidence in employment readiness was lower than their peers in education, employment, and training. NEET respondents showed lower confidence in skills and networks and higher anxiety. Being NEET is a key influential factor explored in our supplementary document.

Young people's mental health, wellbeing, and life satisfaction are of significant concern. Half of the young people in West Yorkshire who responded rated their life satisfaction and happiness as medium. This could signify disengagement and feelings of loneliness. Findings suggest that these feelings could be exacerbated by social media use with a third of young people agreeing that they often compare their life to others on social media which can make them feel dissatisfied.

## Youth Commission

The West Yorkshire Youth Commission was established by the Violence Reduction Partnership with Leaders Unlocked in 2023. The Youth Commission allows young people and underrepresented groups to have a stronger voice on the issues that affect their lives. Their Big Conversation in 2024 highlighted a perceived lack of available opportunities and support for young people and not enough awareness about the services that do exist.

In light of this, the Violence Reduction Partnership asked the Youth Commission to focus its next community engagement on services and opportunities for young people, exploring their thoughts on what support is most needed, the barriers faced to accessing support, and how support and opportunities can help to reduce serious violence. The Youth Commission spoke to 1,247 young people through a series of engagement events, including stalls, peer-led workshops, and one-to-one conversations.

Young people told the Youth Commission about good quality services in their area. The young people named specific organisations, services, and places that they access, for example local places of worship, young carers support, and voluntary organisations. They referenced being able to access good after school clubs, for example Scouts and Guides, chess, and Cadets. Being able to join and enjoy these clubs was viewed positively by the young people as they said these places helped them channel their emotions in a healthy way.

Young people also referred to individuals who had supported them, including the police, both local and in school, and their school guidance counsellors. Sports centres and leisure activities were also reported to be readily available both as spaces such as gyms and extra-curricular clubs, for example boxing. Young people were also able to access Youth Justice services where they could have fun, express themselves, learn new skills and make friends.

The Youth Commission also asked young people what opportunities were missing that they would like in their local area. Overwhelmingly, young people shared that they wanted paid opportunities or apprenticeships. These either weren't available or young people did not feel they had the correct skills to be able to access jobs or apprenticeships. They felt stuck as employers will not hire low experienced workers, but this leaves young people unable to get experience. Young people also wanted to see more help available for those struggling from substance use or prior involvement in criminal activity and this was linked to the need for more skills development related to adult life.

The need for mental health support was clear. Young people wanted free therapy sessions for young people as cost was a consistent barrier mentioned. In addition, young people wanted there to be more safe spaces in their local area.

The key barriers young people faced were accessibility, consistency of services, and stigma. Young people are unable to access services due to limited transport options, the cost-of-living crisis which has left them unable to find employment and/or take part in certain activities and lengthy waiting lists for mental health support. The consistency of services was referenced with young people commenting that youth services frequently close or are unavailable in their local areas. Young people also said they feel there is a stigma around asking for help but also embarrassment about using certain services such as youth clubs. Some of the ways these barriers could be removed suggested by the young people were:

**HOW CAN WE REDUCE**  
**BARRIERS**

<b>COST AND FUNDING</b>	<b>TRANSPORT AND LOCATION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION</b>	<b>TIME AND SCHEDULING</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIALITY AND TRUST</b>	<b>AWARENESS</b>
Price – free/low cost eg 25p per session like CATCH	Good location	Accessible for all	Appropriate time 4:30-6pm	Confidential	Normalise reaching out for support
No Entry fee	Close to home	Accessible for all disabilities - hidden and visible	Reasonable timed sessions	Anonymous support	Make it less of a big thing to need support
Affordable	City centre location	Translator provided when language barrier	Different options for sessions	1-1 support opportunities	Let people know its okay not to be okay
Introduce discounts to learn new skills	Free transport/shuttle	Flexible ways to communicate	Personalised with time and place	Ensuring all info is confidential	Remove stigma from CAHMS
Decrease price in sport clubs, making it affordable – use school premises	Lower transport costs	Online	Flexible	More reassurance	Show young people its not just you
Payment plans for people that don't have the money in full	Better bus times	Disability friendly	Permission to leave school early	Trusted and comfortable spaces	Make support normal
Introduce discounts to learn more skills	Provide travel costs	Access via phone	Longer youth club sessions	Let people know their information is private	Detach stigma from reaching out

## Photovoice

In partnership with Leeds Youth Service, the VRP ran a project with 47 children to explore the theme of 'safe spaces' using Photovoice, a creative research methodology. Using disposable cameras, children were able to document their communities, taking photos to answer the following questions:

1. What makes you feel safe in your community?
2. What do people in your community think about young people?
3. What would you like people in your community to think about young people?

Children then took part in 2 workshops, to explore the narrative behind their photos and then to design a photography exhibition to showcase their work to decision makers.

Youth clubs were consistently highlighted as safe spaces for the children and young people involved in the research. This was due to the constant presence of youth workers and the continuous offer of support. Discussions about youth clubs primarily focused on the people, rather than the physical environment, but was described as "a getaway from bad stuff".

Physical safety features, included cameras and street lighting, also increased children's feelings of safety. They also showed a preference for positive community features, such as art and murals, along with areas designated for them to hang out, as it made them feel more welcome in their area.

There were also a number of factors that made children feel less safe. Photos included litter, graffiti and abandoned buildings – described as making the areas look 'scruffy'.

Perceptions of young people were also discussed and how the media can influence public opinion. For example, 'No Ball Games' signs were described as making young people feel unwelcome and like they didn't have anywhere to go.

Time of day was also highlighted in conversations, with areas like parks feeling less safe as it gets darker.

More information about our Photovoice project can be found on our [website](#).

## Serious Violence Strategy Consultation

Serious violence consultation led by West Yorkshire Policing & Crime Team and the Community Safety Partnerships took place over the summer and autumn of 2025. During that time 2,245 responses were received from those who live, work or study in West Yorkshire. Surveys designed for an adult audience focussed on experiences and perceptions, the impact of serious organised crime including criminal exploitation and gangs, concerns around knife crime and how serious violence impacted people's feelings on their town/city centres and which issues made them feel the most unsafe.

A further survey was designed as suitable for children and young people, in an easy read format, which many adults also chose to complete – there were 2,793 responses from this Safety Survey. This survey explored in an age-appropriate way feelings of safety in local town centres and explored what made people feel the most safe/unsafe.

### Adult Survey

- 70.5% of respondents stated that they had not been either a victim or witness to serious violence.
- Of the 346 people who were either a victim or a witness, 65.9% said they had reported it to the police.
- Most people said they *would* report serious violence in the future (88.3%).
- For those who would not report, reasons given included lack of confidence in the police, uncertainty that there would be any follow up or justice, and fear that it would make the situation worse.

### Experiences of Gang Activity and/or Criminal Exploitation

- 19% of respondents said that they or those they live with had been affected by gang activity and/or criminal exploitation.
- Many of those that had been affected stated that they had seen open drug dealing, were in fear of serious violence or intimidation and were scared to go out.

### Knife Crime

- Almost half (48%) of respondents were worried about knife crime in their local area. They reported being fearful for their families and communities, and that children and young people were now more at risk of carrying knives.
- 45% were worried about knife crime online, including the influence of social media and online content on children and young people.

### **How serious violence affects how we use our town centres**

- Respondents mostly mentioned the cities and towns in their home district but sometimes talked about other places in West Yorkshire.
- Most people felt safe in city and town centres during the day, but less safe at night. 70.9% of respondents felt safe during daylight hours, but only 26.9% felt safe after dark.
- For West Yorkshire as a whole personal robbery was identified as the main safety concern, with the second highest being knife crime. There were some differences in which were identified as the top concern across the districts, but the main concerns were identified in all districts as being personal robbery, knife crime, gangs/organised criminals, violence against the person (e.g. assault) and violence against women and girls

### **Safety Survey (aimed at children and young people)**

- 69% of respondents were children and young people aged under 18.
- 14% were aged 18 to 24, and 17% were aged 25 and over.
- The largest group of respondents were 16 and 17 year olds – this group represented a third of all respondents and over half of the children who participated.

### **Feelings of safety where you live**

- 72% of respondents said they felt safe in the area where they lived
- 82% felt safe going to town when it was light.
- When asked about whether they felt safe at night, responses were fairly evenly split between “Yes”, “No” and “Sometimes”
- When asked to describe what made them feel safe, respondents mentioned friends and family, police and nice neighbourhoods
- Most respondents chose “Guns/knives and criminal gangs” from a list of options of what made them feel most unsafe. Other top responses were
  - Fear of being attacked or having something stolen
  - People drinking alcohol or who might be on drugs
  - People hanging around in cars or driving dangerously
  - Hate – people shouting at me or hurting me because of who I am

# Influential factors

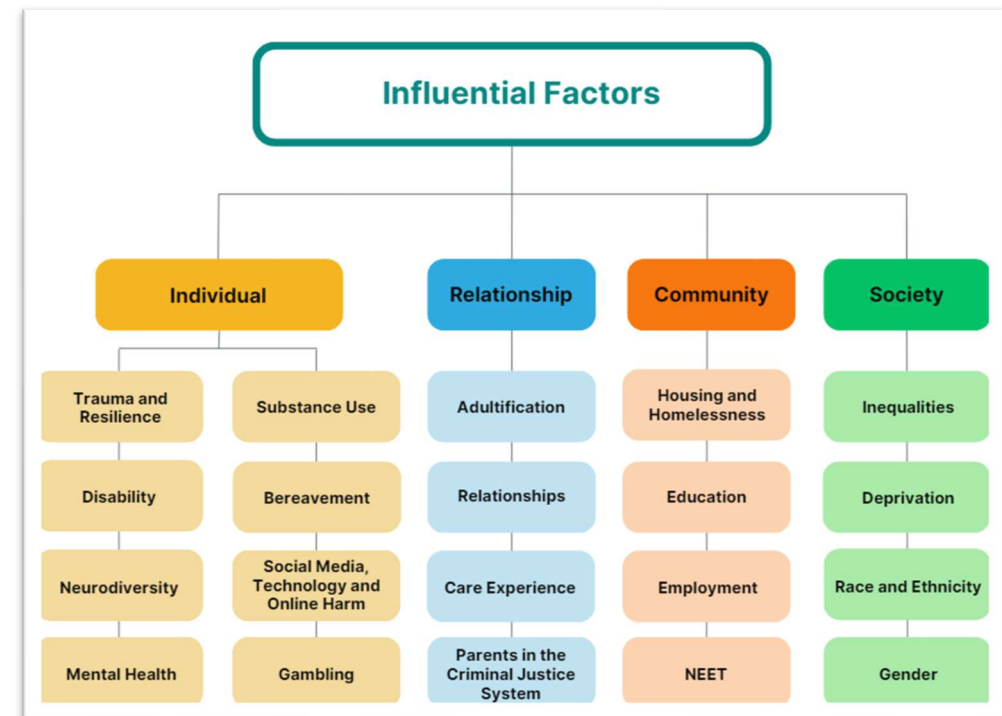
A crucial part of reducing violence, helping communities stay safe as well as improving health and wellbeing is understanding influential factors. At its most fundamental level, the VRP aims to reduce the frequency and intensity of violence risk factors whilst promoting protective factors. We refer to the influential factors for violence; these can also be referred to as risk and protective factors. Risk factors are associated with a higher likelihood of engaging with or experiencing violence and exploitation. Protective factors are the inverse, whereby they can reduce the likelihood of engaging with or experiencing violence and exploitation.

To supplement this SNA, we have produced a produced an evidence synthesis which aims to offer insight and increase understanding of factors influencing violence by:

- collating and reviewing appropriate evidence,
- providing a contextual summary of several risk and protective factors,
- highlighting knowledge gaps and,
- offering recommendations for provision or future research, where appropriate.

Some risk and protective factors can be conceptualised as being on different ends of the same continuum, for example unemployment has been identified as a risk factor for violence and conversely quality employment may be a protective factor against violence. It is important to note that neither risk or protective factors directly cause or prevent violence. Having a risk factor does not predict involvement in violence and it is not a predisposition, as such we refer to these collectively as influential factors for violence.

The VRP use the four-level socio-ecological model (individual, relationship, community, and societal) to better understand violence and the effect of potential prevention strategies. It allows an understanding of the range of factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence. The ecological model emphasises that single risk factors do not directly cause violence, instead it is the interaction amongst different risk factors that influences the level of risk.



## Key Findings

- Serious violence rose in the last year - some of this can be attributed to the increase in business robberies which has been impacted by changes to crime recording.
- It did not increase across all districts - in Calderdale and Kirklees business robberies increased, but almost every other serious violence offence category decreased resulting in a reduction in total numbers.
- Serious violence in Leeds had the highest proportion of robbery offences – 56% of all serious violence. Wakefield had the lowest, with robbery making up 38% of serious violence.
- 15% of all serious violence had a child victim (high of 17% in Leeds and low of 12% in Wakefield). Serious violence against children reduced overall in the last 12 months, except in Kirklees which had a very small increase.
- Although there was an overall reduction in serious violence against children, it was mostly due to fewer robbery offences. At the same time numbers of some of the most serious offences increased, including homicide, attempted murder and knife-enabled assaults and threats to kill.
- Knife crime reduced across West Yorkshire this year, except in Bradford district which had its highest number of knife crime offences in five years.
- Kirklees was the only district to see an increase in overall knife crime against children this year, however within the knife crime category, increases in knife-enabled assaults and threats to kill were seen in Bradford, Calderdale and Leeds, and knife-enabled assaults in Wakefield, despite there not being an overall increase.
- Just under a third of all serious violence involved a knife; 32% which was a five year low. The proportion was higher for the youngest victims of serious violence though - 40% of serious violence against children involved the use of a knife, and this was nearer to 50% in Calderdale and Kirklees.
- One of the largest increases in violence against children was in cruelty offences which have been increasing year on year and rose by 18% in the latest year. Increases are likely to have been impacted by improvements to public protection processes and increased awareness.
- Recent child cruelty offences were more than five times higher than numbers four years ago. There were increases in all districts in the last year except Calderdale which had a small decrease.
- 54% of rape offences and 26% of other sexual offences recorded against children in the last year were non-recent. There were increases in both recent and non-recent sexual offences against children, but increases in recent offences were greater. Recent rape offences rose by 25%.
- Disproportionality of violence against women and girls was more pronounced in some violent crime categories. Controlling or coercive behaviour, intentional strangulation and stalking were predominantly domestic abuse (DA) related, while sexual offences, harassment and some public order offences were more often non-DA.
- The areas that had the highest numbers of street harassment type offences were mostly the same for victims of both sexes and were often city and town centre areas. There were however other areas identified where the numbers of crimes against female victims were disproportionately high.
- Most offenders in violent crime were male, and 59% of adult offenders in violent crime were recorded as being unemployed.