

**Chief Officer Team
Briefing for COM**

Title: Serious Violent Crime
Report Author: Superintendent Damon Solley
COT Sponsor: ACC Damien Miller
Date: December 2021

SUMMARY

This report provides details of how West Yorkshire Police and the Mayoral Combined Authority - governed Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have made progress to tackle serious violent crime, knife crime, county lines, firearms offences and Serious Organised Crime (SOC) as it relates to violence.

The report details the progress of Operation Jemlock and how it operates as the enforcement arm of the Violence Reduction Unit. It shows how the downward trend in incidents of knife related violence is continuing. There is a section on how the outcomes are tracked for those arrested by the team and how it is an emerging workstream to share data to establish records on those young people who may come into contact with both the enforcement and diversion aspects of VRU business.

The impact of the pandemic restrictions on violent crime levels is explained with data from performance analysts. This demonstrates that there was an inevitable decrease in such crimes when Covid restrictions were in place. However, since the lifting of restrictions there have been increases in some crime types, although thankfully not large spikes as feared.

The overall picture on firearms offences is also encouraging. The standard of investigations and mapping of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) are just two of the reasons why discharges are down. To tackle County Lines exploitation, Op Precision colleagues work closely with the region and several operations have been launched to ensure a joined-up approach.

For child offenders, a new initiative has been launched by the VRU whereby an outreach worker accompanies police officers at street level to engage young people at the scene of incidents involving violence.

There is a comprehensive description of West Yorkshire Police's early intervention activities across all five districts, detailing the many initiatives targeted at young people. This is the

force response which, as daily business, compliments the VRU - supported projects. There is a great deal which is delivered by district teams for young people working with local authorities and other partner agencies.

The section on Operation Precision, West Yorkshire Police's initiative to tackle Serious and Organised Crime details how a recently developed Home Office methodology, 'Clear, Hold and Build' is being used in a number of force areas as a means to further enhance partnership working in SOC priority areas. In addition to targeting Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) the teams are also targeting priority individuals to better understand the threat to communities.

In terms of how SOC activity informs Neighbourhood Policing, each district has its own SOC local profile and puts the 'Clear Hold Build' approach at the heart of its activity to deliver a partnership response to SOC.

The VRU workstream updates are then listed to inform on the progress of each and the report finally covers the latest and emerging challenges relating to the collective effort to further drive down serious violence in all its forms.

Operation Jemlock & Links with the VRU

Operation Jemlock has been the force's dedicated serious violence reduction initiative since April 2019 and is now approaching the end of its third financial year.

It provides daily deployments of officers into hotspot patrols of West Yorkshire and has delivered a visible and effective policing style by utilising the following policing tactics.

- Intelligence – led high visibility hotspot patrols in high serious violent crime (SVC) areas
- Disruption activities utilising appropriate stop and search
- Targeting SVC offenders wanted for outstanding offences
- Responding to live time incidents of serious violence.

Year 3 has seen highly localised and specific hotspot patrols to deliver the most efficient and targeted reductions. The VRU has recruited an additional analyst to carry out the data analytics which identify our hotspots.

In addition to this work, Operation Jemlock continue to deploy into higher crime areas for longer periods to disrupt criminality and search for those who are wanted for offences of violence. Jemlock staff also receive requests sent direct through from the Inland Border Command, Border Force, to visit addresses and intercept illegally imported weapons purchased over the internet.

There will also be activity aligned to the national week of action, Operation Sceptre, which is supported by district staff. The week of action for the Autumn of 2021 commences on November the 15th. This will involve weapons safety sweeps, test purchasing of knives and deployments of our knife arches.

OFFICIAL

The whole organisation has supported and delivered the violence reduction agenda. The number of searches for weapons has risen dramatically. The number of interventions and locally run operations which support the central aims have increased and overall Operation Jemlock has led the way to empower all staff to contribute to the successes achieved so far.

Officers have been upskilled by working with specialists on the operation to whom they would ordinarily have had limited access. Young in-service officers have worked alongside search trained officers, advanced drivers, police dog handlers and others. They have gained much from these experiences and taken that back to their daily roles.

Officers who work on Operation Jemlock are challenged to improve their knowledge of local youths at risk of violent offending and the programmes with which they may (or may not be) engaging. This improves the overall intelligence picture for proportionate targeting of offenders.

The lead and deputy for Operation Jemlock attend VRU Partnership Delivery Group meetings from which there are specific actions to take the collaboration forward. In addition, they play an active role in the Partnership Executive Group along with senior representatives from all the local Crime Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to discuss the initiatives being delivered and how operational policing feeds into this.

To date, the following performance has been delivered by Operation Jemlock and the combined activities of the VRU, local authority and wider West Yorkshire Police collaboration to tackle serious violence.

Operation Jemlock.

- Arrests 6,168
- Weapons recovered 930
- Stop & Search 6,155
- Intelligence submissions 12,822

KEY MEASUREABLE OUTCOMES									
KPI	2019	2020	BD	KD	LD	CD	WD	2021	Total
GRAND TOTALS									
Weapons Seized	146	469	68	63	160	8	16	315	930
Arrests	2389	2431	456	358	405	101	28	1348	6168
Stop / Searches	1706	2751	386	283	912	58	59	1698	6155
Intel Submissions	4188	5354	862	798	1315	224	81	3280	12822

In the 29 months since Operation Jemlock launched, compared to the same period prior to that, the following reductions have been achieved.

Of note is that precisely at the time of Jemlock’s commencement, the method of counting knife offences changed due to the National Data Quality Improvement Service (NDQIS).

This resulted in **more knife offences identified than previously** (not a huge increase as our crime recording was already considered to be accurate).

Therefore, the reductions seen below should be viewed as even more noteworthy, given this change in practice.

Knife enabled crime down 5%

299 Fewer victims

Knife crime victims under 25 down 6.2%

54 Fewer victims

Non-domestic Homicides down 20%

12 Fewer victims

Robbery down 19.5%

1,593 Fewer victims

Robbery involving a sharp implement down 16%

335 Fewer victims

Outcomes and Post Arrest Interventions

Part of the collection of the vast amount of data by Operation Jemlock staff is outcomes by category of those arrested. Below is the current table which displays outcomes for arrests carried out since April 2021.

ARREST OUTCOMES							
Outcome Code	BD	KD	LD	CD	WD	Total	%
RUI / BAIL	116	129	131	33	12	421	47%
01 - Charged	68	41	101	14	2	226	25%
03 - Caution	6	10	6	2	0	24	3%
08 - Community Resolution	13	7	9	0	1	30	3%
15 - NFA - Evidential	44	48	53	12	8	165	18%
16 - NFA - Victim Withdraws	8	16	8	5	1	38	4%
21 - No Police Action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
22 - Diversionary	0	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Court (None-PACE)	174	63	58	29	3	327	NA
Foreign Force Enquiry	5	9	1	0	1	16	NA
Other	4	4	9	0	0	17	NA
Total (check)	438	328	376	95	28	1265	

Offences of violence often require further enquiries to be carried out to establish the circumstances and events of a case, as well as trace additional witnesses and suspects. That is why the numbers of people who at present have been released under investigation or on police bail appear so prominent.

We do not currently track those with whom we come into contact from an enforcement perspective into VRU – supported interventions. Currently VRU analysts in the Knowledge Hub don't have access to identifiable police data. We are about to embark on a workstream which will better enable us to do this, with support and assistance from our Information Governance colleague to negotiate around the information management side.

Recently the VRU recruited a dedicated Jemlock analyst, employed by West Yorkshire Police, primarily to assist with the specific data analytics required for the Home Office - mandated hotspot policing.

However, this also gives us capacity to explore using their expertise to carry out searches on all systems to identify whether there can be links made to VRU commissioned projects and initiatives. Again, this comes down to data protection and information governance. This is not without issue as many organisations who work with young people may understandably wish to keep the identities of those they are working with confidential.

We will seek to work more closely with local authorities to record data relating to referrals made by operational officers to them and track progress.

The Impact of the Pandemic and a Review of how the Restrictions Affected the levels of Knife Crime and Potential for Increases Post – Lockdown

Trends

Crime involving knives and sharp instruments have seen a marked reduction since 2018, despite the force implementing a new approach for identifying such crimes from April 2019 (NDQIS – National Data Quality Improvement Service). The long-term trend has levelled off but there are early indications that small increases may be seen based on the most recent 12 monthly figures.

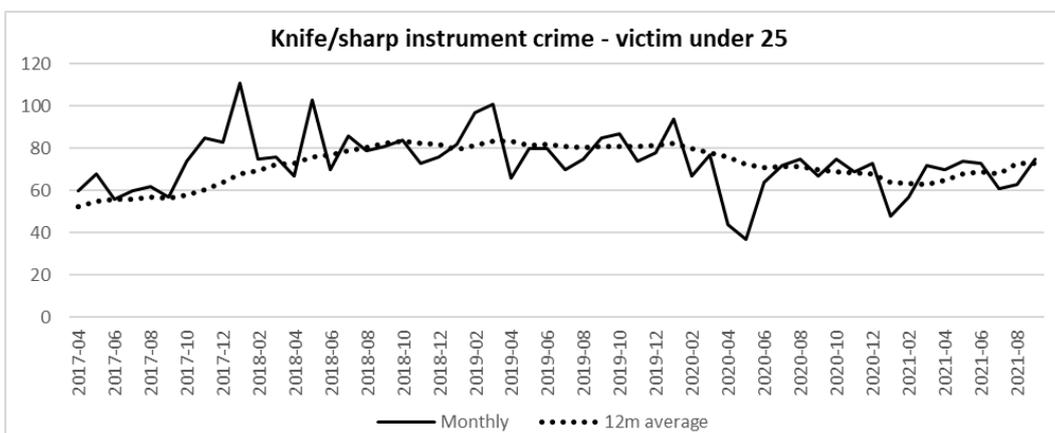
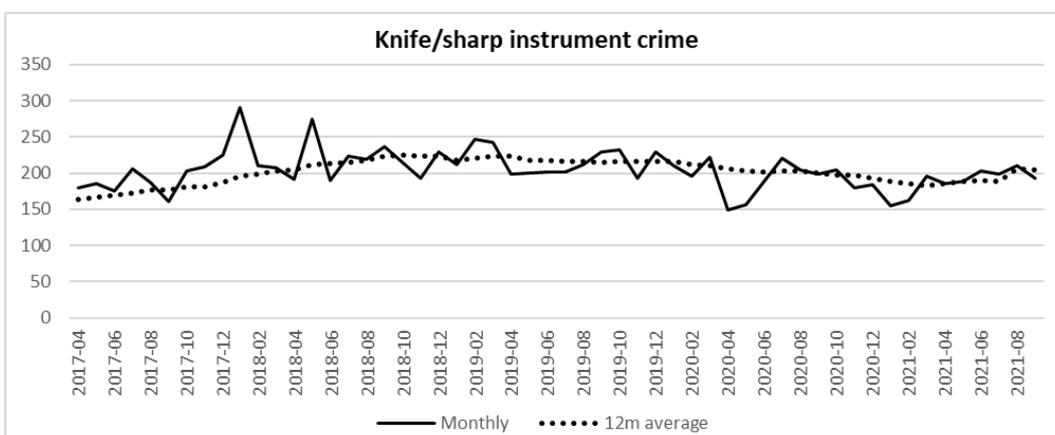
The force reported a 10.7% reduction in the last 12 months when compared to the pre-Covid period (12 months to March 2020), with all districts seeing a reduction. However, when compared with the Covid period (12 months to March 2021) there has been a 2.7% increase. This suggests that as restrictions have been eased there has been an increase in offending. For crimes involving victims aged under 25 the reduction was greater at 13.2% compared with the pre-Covid period, but there has been a larger increase when compared with the Covid period (+7.6%).

OFFICIAL

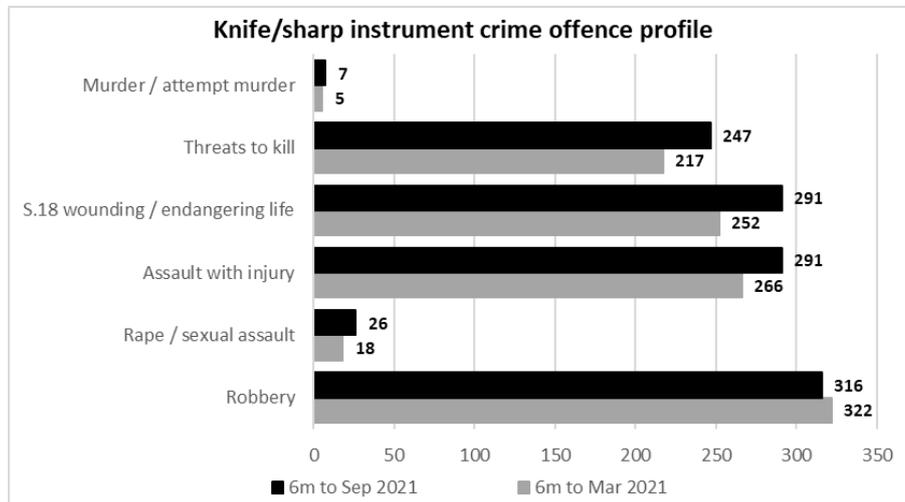
All crimes	BD	CD	KD	LD	WD	Force
12m to September 2021	575	156	378	908	241	2258
12m to March 2021	568	172	370	866	222	2198
Change	+7	-16	+8	+42	+19	+60
	+1.2%	-9.3%	+2.2%	+4.8%	+8.6%	+2.7%
12m to March 2020	616	196	420	1033	264	2529
Change	-41	-40	-42	-125	-23	-271
	-6.7%	-20.4%	-10.0%	-12.1%	-8.7%	-10.7%

Victim under 25	BD	CD	KD	LD	WD	Force
12m to September 2021	207	45	122	364	72	810
12m to March 2021	184	42	117	344	66	753
Change	+23	+3	+5	+20	+6	+57
	+12.5%	+7.1%	+4.3%	+5.8%	+9.1%	+7.6%
12m to March 2020	185	82	171	419	76	933
Change	+22	-37	-49	-55	-4	-123
	+11.9%	-45.1%	-28.7%	-13.1%	-5.3%	-13.2%

The following charts show the monthly volumes and 12-month averages for all crimes and for those involving a victim aged under 25. The impact of Covid restrictions in April-June 2020 can clearly be seen, with volumes of crime reducing, and this is repeated in early 2021 as restrictions were reintroduced. These reductions were more marked when considering crimes involving victims aged under 25. From March 2021 onwards there has been an upward trend evident, however the volumes have not returned to pre-Covid levels as yet.

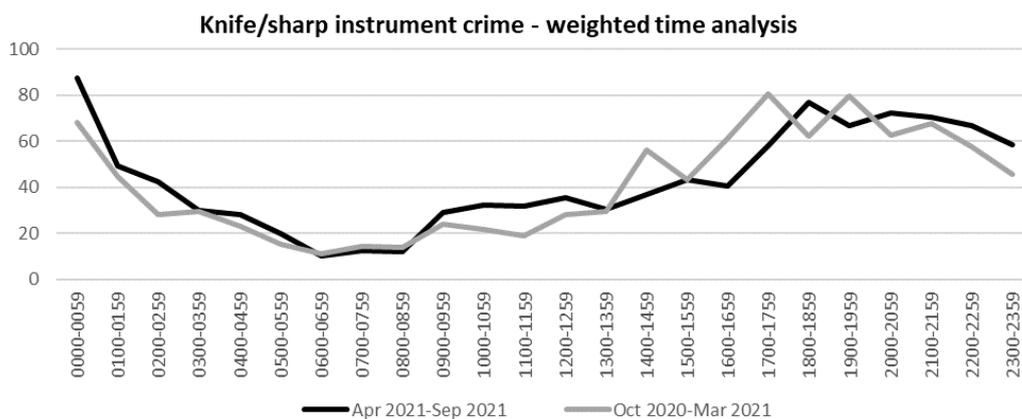


The following chart shows the offence profile for the latest six months to September compared with the previous six months to March 2021, illustrating the change in offending since the easing of Covid restrictions in April 2021. The main increases have been seen in Threats to kill (+14%), S.18 wounding / endangering life (+15%) and Assault with injury (+9%).



Temporal analysis

The distribution of crime throughout an average day (based on the earliest and latest dates committed) for the six months to September 2021 is illustrated below, along with comparisons to the previous six months to March 2021. More offences were committed overnight in the last six months and between 1000-1300, however the profile is relatively similar between the two periods.



In summary

- The number of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments reduced through 2020/21 compared with the previous year.
- Volumes were at their lowest when Covid restrictions were in place.

- The short-term trend is increasing, and volumes have returned to those reported in the same period in 2020 but remain below the previous year.
- The main increases have been seen in Threats to kill, S.18 wounding / endangering life and Assault with injury.
- Times of offending remain relatively consistent, with higher levels of offences being committed overnight.

Firearms Incidents and Gun Crime

Within Protective Services Crime a Firearms Prevent team is dedicated to reducing the risk from firearms and effectively investigating any discharges. As required, this team is supported by the larger major investigation teams with all such investigations being led by a Senior Investigating Officer.

The force has a dedicated Chief Inspector on the Firearms Cadre providing 24-hour cover with a dedicated Intelligence function providing live - time research and analysis to ensure a thorough evaluation of the information, dynamic risk assessments with tactical plans formulated and officers deployed where appropriate in a timely manner. The force has a weekly meeting where firearms and organised crime Intelligence is reviewed to ensure all disruption and assertive management opportunities are maximised. This includes the management of offenders who are released into the community with specialist Investigators involved in these investigations from Protective Services crime.

There is a strong and effective relationship between investigators and the firearms capability of the force. For example, armed response vehicles patrol hotspot areas and undertake offender management of some individuals, after appropriate assessment. This is being further strengthened between specialist investigators at PSC and firearms officers developing bespoke training to upskill key departments.

We have had some significant performance across a number of different work streams due to our 'whole systems' approach to firearms criminality and how, by understanding the threat as a whole and making improvements across different aspects of our response we have achieved a situation whereby the public are undoubtedly safer. All of this is being delivered in line with Programme Precision and our response to Serious Organised Crime.

Actual Discharges

	Apr 2016 – Mar 2017	Apr 2017 – Mar 2018	Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2021 – Oct 2021
Totals	60	50	51	42	23	14
Detection	11.5%	19.6%	17%	28%	52.2%	66.7%

Our actual discharge figures are the lowest for five years, a considerable year on year decrease. Some might suggest that this is the Covid 19 effect, but we would dispute this. During the same period, one of our neighbouring forces has seen a substantial increase, with the National picture remaining the same.

The reason our figures have decreased is because we undertake specialist investigations into every discharge event. Some discharges involve a gun fired into the air, some involve a homicide. However, our approach is to deploy a specialist investigation into each and every discharge event to ensure that where we can we recover the weapons and ensure convictions for the relevant offence. It is this approach which has led to the detection rates we have achieved.

West Yorkshire Police works closely with the Regional Organised Crime Unit to monitor and map organised crime groups and urban street gangs who are involved in County Lines and drug supply both within West Yorkshire and into other counties. West Yorkshire has mapped several lines to manage, monitor and disrupt where appropriate utilising both overt and covert investigations.

Similar to the Organised Crime Group model, groups are scored, mapped and prioritised for interventions and disruptions. The force develops strategic plans to tackle and disrupt organised crime groups through a coordinated Multi-Agency approach.

Strategic plans are monitored and delivered through the Programme Precision Force Silver group where Organised Crime Groups (OCG) and Urban Street Gangs that are high priority are discussed, disruptions are recorded which includes arrests and convictions of OCG nominals.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy “Tackling County Lines and misuse of Drugs “

Within West Yorkshire, County Lines criminality is dealt with using a joined-up approach between the National County Lines Coordination Centre, Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit County Lines co-ordinator and centralised team and then at district through targeted investigations and the SOC Op Precision.

County Lines and organised exploitation has been strategically MoRILE (management of risk in law enforcement) scored and has been identified as a primary threat.

The county lines issue in West Yorkshire is predominately one of an exporting force. This exporting is both internally and externally and so our focus is on exploitation and the organisation elements as opposed to street level interdictions.

The county lines response is codenamed Op Redive we share this name with the YH ROCU to unify our response. There is a central Redive team based within the Specialist Programme Precision Modern Slavery Team. The response is led by a DCI who is the force tactical lead for county lines. This team co-ordinates the management, mapping, flagging, and scoring of threat, activity on identified county lines and projects, campaigns and initiatives aimed at diversion and intervention on those who may be exploited.

A force wide thematic threat has been identified that involves the Western Balkans. To tackle this threat Operation Peninsular was set up to increase the intelligence and investigative opportunities specifically centred around Cannabis production.

As part of the Specialist Programme Precision Modern Slavery Team there is a dedicated Training and Partnerships Officer (Modern Slavery & Redive - County Lines) who regularly creates training packages for officers and partners. Through the already well-established district modern slavery partnership forums, we work closely to ensure that we have a joined up multi-agency approach to tackle county lines, working across all the 4P's.

Operation CUCKOO is being developed by the Specialist Programme Precision Modern Slavery Team and non-policing partners to look at best practice to tackle the issue of Cuckooed addresses within West Yorkshire. This process will allow a joint up response to prevent vulnerable people being exploited within their homes for the benefit of organised crime groups.

We are also a pilot force for National Data Analytics Solution (Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking), providing data into a central and national repository of information that looks to identify trends, patterns, and threats.

The force has successfully used drug dealing telephone restriction orders to disrupt county lines activity.

County lines OCGs are subject of a six-weekly review by the head of SOC to ensure that there is a plan in place for each and that focused activity is being undertaken.

Approach to Child Offenders

There are a number of specific initiatives in the Violence Reduction Unit that are currently being funded to ensure young people are supported away from criminal behaviour and activity when they have been drawn into serious violence and gangs. These were detailed in the previous COM paper and many are planned to continue when funding is confirmed.

Custody and hospital based diversionary programmes with partners continue their delivery and are integral to provide interventions for the 'teachable moment'.

Early intervention is at the heart of the VRU approach and the details of specific projects for young people is covered elsewhere in this report. The aim is obviously to prevent young person's becoming involved in violent crime and criminality which incorporates violence as a method of commission or indeed as a cultural norm.

A new and very promising initiative which launched in the autumn of 2021 was the 'Teachable Moments' patrol, also known as the 'Focussed Deterrence Car'. This has been made possible thanks to a successful bid made by the VRU to the Serious Violence Youth Interventions Funding – Teachable Moments Interventions Programme.

The initiative involves the deployment of a plain clothes police officer crewed with an outreach youth worker. The aim is that where Operation Jemlock officers are requested to

attend the scene of a violence – related incident, the Focussed Deterrence Car can also attend to engage with those young people on the periphery. They may be witnesses or bystanders. They will be young people who have the potential to become further embroiled in the USG violence arena.

The outreach worker will engage if possible with the young person or people and offer support at that ‘teachable moment’, just as they would in A & E or even custody, with a view to beginning a process of intervening positively to steer them away from such a path.

All district local authorities have supported this initiative. The first series of deployments have been positively received and show early signs of proving successful.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy “Early Intervention and Prevention” – Force Response

The Neighbourhood Policing Model is embedded across the Force area. All five Districts utilise Safer Schools Officers, Neighbourhood Officers and Police Community Support Officers to deliver knife crime awareness lessons to children in education establishments, supported by the Force’s School Liaison Officer.

The Early Action offer across all the Districts has increased over the past year and further supports joint work with Partners in relation to education, intervention, and diversion. The Force works closely in partnership with the Liaison and Diversion Team across all Districts, supported by VRU funding.

Calderdale District’s Early Help Team have two referral pathways to identify young people who are on the cusp of coming to the attention of the Police. Internally every 24 hours from a data search of police systems they identify every young person linked to a crime as a first-time offender or a young person linked to more than one crime. With this data each crime is reviewed, and the team direct the investigating officers to refer to the Early Action Team. Cases are discussed twice weekly with Partners which includes the Liaison and Diversion Team, the Youth Justice Service and Children’s Social Care.

These meetings identify actions to tackle the causes of offending not just the symptoms. Every referral has a Niche Occurrence created where the issues, actions and outcomes of the interventions are recorded. They also have helped develop a second pathway called the Early Help Hub created by the Councils Children Services. This identifies young people from those referrals from incidents or issues that have not been reported to the Police, instead they have been reported direct to Children’s Social Care via the front door at MASH. These referrals in many cases would never have come to police attention. As a result of these referrals the team identify young people and their families who need support from services including the police to reduce the risks of escalation to more serious offence types.

The team uses activity-based sessions funded by the VRU to deliver to the more complex young people that are more downstream or who may have special educational needs, multiple adverse risks, mental health or self-esteem issues. This enables the team to break down barriers through the activities to enable the educational side of the work they deliver.

The team are introducing opportunities for the young people to provide feedback about the engagements they provide to assist with improving service delivery. Calderdale District have also seen an opportunity to utilise their engagements with young people to seek feedback about their perception of policing in general. This is in relation to encounters they have had and policing they have witnessed, what they like and don't like. This may help the police going forward to understand young people and use the learning to get the best out of young people.

Bradford District's Early Help offer this year has focused on the early educational settings, increasing awareness and referrals to be discussed at localised Lead Practitioner Panel meetings. Keighley's 'all age' pilot continues to be successful in reducing demand with effective partnership work around repeat callers, missing persons and first-time offenders.

Bradford have developed a pathway to allow referrals via Children's Social Care and the front door to be discussed at the daily Early Help Panel, cases which would normally have not met the threshold or come to Police attention. Bradford's new Early Help Domestic Abuse Partnership has been created allowing officers to signpost families, both victims and perpetrators focusing on family intervention as a whole. They continue to work closely with their Neighbourhoods, Safer Schools and the Bradford Youth Engagement Officer delivering focused inputs in raising awareness of criminal exploitation, the consequences of crime and youth violence.

As part of Operation Sceptre, local NPTs ran operations across the district which included educational knife crime and drugs inputs and the effects of crime helping them build community cohesion and confidence in the Police. Bradford District continue to work and build on the successful intervention project "Breaking the Cycle" proactively completing outreach work with their diverse team across the district to target hotspot areas and engage with young people encouraging youth empowerment and positive role models.

Kirklees District continue to progress their successful P.E.A.K Project (Positive Engagement Against Knives) which was designed and is delivered by Early Action officers with support from the Huddersfield Town Foundation. The bespoke six-week programme supports targeted young people in schools across Kirklees to help them feel safer, realise their potential, and improve community cohesion. This is achieved through educational resources, diversionary activity, youth empowerment, inspiration and use of role models. As part of this project Kirklees Early Action officers have secured the assistance of the courageous widow of a murder victim who was violently killed in 2020 by two young people. She is speaking to those enrolled as part of the workshops about the devastating effects on her family, friends and community.

They are also developing a new educational video regarding the incident. The young people also receive First Aid training and accreditation. In addition, officers have developed a 'Challenge Day' diversionary project at Eden's Forest CIC where referred young people receive inputs around violent crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, and County Lines along with participation in team building exercises and bushcraft activities. The Kirklees Early Action Team continues

to expand and young people dealt with for low level offences are receiving educational inputs on crime and the consequences with a view to preventing further offences and a life of criminality by showing them what they can achieve away from negative influences.

In **Leeds** the Early Action team are spread across three sites, East, West and South. The officers are co-located with a multi-discipline team. They meet daily to discuss all new cases and formulate intervention plans. Referrals come mainly through a 24-hour search of Police Systems. A focus on the first-time subjects, suspects, missing from home has now been adopted to make sure resources are directed to the cases that are suitable for early intervention. The team continue also to build a strong working relationship with Liaison and Diversion, identifying the limits of Leeds City Council EH Hubs and optimising support for Youths / Families in need of help through the L&D channels.

In September, awareness briefings were provided to all response officers to highlight the benefits of Early intervention and to encourage referrals from the front line. This has resulted in an upsurge of quality referrals during October. Awareness briefings will also be delivered to Neighbourhood policing teams during the month of November. The Early Action team are committed to further promoting the Early Intervention ethos across the district and will be visiting all teams over the coming months to offer support and advice.

Leeds City Council have offered Leeds District 265 e-licences for training into reducing parental conflict (RPC). Currently all Early Action officers have been trained to engage and assist parents at conflict deal with their issues. In addition, the link officers for LASBT will also be trained in RPC. Any remaining licences will be offered to PCSO's within each Neighbourhood locality.

The Strategic Engagement officer for Primary schools in Leeds has upskilled Neighbourhood PCSO's to deliver presentations including topics such as the dangers of knives in Primary Schools across the district. Early Action officers have supported this work, attending the schools and helping to break down barriers between children and police.

Within the most deprived areas in Leeds known for youth violent crime, there has been a request for intensive workshops to be run at some North East Leeds schools and the launch of these is imminent.

Just prior to the summer break, Collaboration Digital linked in with Safer Schools to present knife crime workshops across several schools in the city. Each group of children attending the workshop created their own promotional videos to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife. The videos were posted online, and people voted for their favourite.

Wakefield District continues to deliver 1:1 intervention within the Early Action Hub around Serious Violent Crime, including weapons and knives. They also have the CASLNK Project which is a funded partnership project between the Police, the Children's First Hub and a company called Life Experience. This project primarily focuses on knife crime and runs in cohorts over a 6-week period. Each cohort focusses on working with ex-offenders around the

dangers of knife related crime, statistics, the crime to prison process, consequences of crime, victim-based work, peer pressure, reflection, substance misuse, first aid, self-defence and structured scenario-based work.

The District has also continued the Cell Intervention Project. The project is run every 6 weeks at South Kirkby Police Station. The aim of the intervention is to give each young person a 'realistic' experience of the crime to custody process. Each young person will go through a mock custody booking-in process, shown to the cells, fingerprints and photographs as well as information around the detention of prisoners. They utilise partner agencies including Family Hubs, St Giles and other partners to deliver key messages and education around consequences of crime and lived experience from ex-offenders.

The project has been a successful intervention. Feedback from both young people and parents has been positive in disrupting that young person's negative behaviours and developmental in moulding the projects. A number of young people have been referred to other services for a whole family system support as well as working with St Giles after identifying concerns around county lines.

Wakefield District also continue to champion the Focus Deterrence Car. This is a Force wide project co-ordinated at each District funded by the VRU. Working with a Youth Worker they deploy in the aftermath of incidents of serious violence and fill the vacuum often left when the victim has been taken to hospital, suspect arrested and what is left young people in the streets.

In September 2021, West Yorkshire Police launched a new initiative called 'Pol-Ed' (Policing and Education). Pol-Ed is a trailblazing concept, in both its development and design, with the principle goal of safeguarding and protecting all young people across West Yorkshire. It has been developed by officers and teachers working within West Yorkshire Police for delivery by schools and education providers across the county. The ultimate aim of the project is to keep every child in West Yorkshire safe. The resources provide teachers with the tools to deliver information on the law, crime prevention and safeguarding. Serious violence crime and knife crime is included in the schemes of work for secondary education.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy "Supporting Communities and Partnership Working"

The Home Office strategy details the role of Police and Crime Commissioners in tackling serious violence in communities.

Since the transfer of responsibilities from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayoral Combined Authority, a detailed programme of work has been undertaken to ensure that the staff and their roles have continued with minimal disruption to the delivery of services, including the Violence Reduction Unit in its entirety.

The work of engaging with retailers to encourage the responsible sale of knives was previously disrupted by the closure of shops and non-essential retailers during the pandemic.

However, this work recommenced earlier in the year and will continue with the national week of action, Operation Sceptre, in November 2021. Each district and the VRU have a planned timetable of activity to sweep for weapons, test retailers for knife sales to underage young people and deploy our knife arches.

The focus on preventing the acquisition of knives illegally is a key strand of our enforcement work. Operation Jemlock receives notification from the Border Agency of illegally imported weapons ordered over the internet and takes responsibility for the requisite enforcement action to intercept the items and deal with the offenders.

Programme Precision Update 2021

Over the past 12 months West Yorkshire Police have produced a county-wide Serious and Organised Crime Local profile alongside separate profiles for each of the five local authority areas. These profiles used police data including Serious Violence, acquisitive crime and drugs offending to produce a detailed analytical picture of how SOC impacts on each of the wards across each district.

These local profiles are being used to guide the delivery of work at a number of levels. Initially through the Programme Precision Executive Steering Group, which is chaired by Kersten England, Chief Executive for Bradford Council and has director level representation from each local authority alongside police and the Violence Reduction Unit. This steering group has been refreshed during this year and is working to enhance links between the Serious Violence and SOC Strategies.

Locally each district has a Programme Precision Partnership Group who meet regularly to develop an enhanced collaborative response to address local SOC risks. These meetings are supported by a broad spectrum of partners and work is ongoing to support the future development of these meetings. These groups are able to commission specific Bronze groups to deliver on identified pieces of work and provide regular updates into the force Silver Group which in turn feeds into the Executive Steering Group.

A recently developed Home Office methodology Clear, Hold and Build is being used in a number of force areas as a means to further enhance partnership working in SOC priority areas.

Our focus within West Yorkshire has broadened from a focus simply on Organised Crime Groups (OCG's). Alongside OCG's, our focus is also on priority individuals, the enablers of criminality who may serve a number of different crime groups. By taking this broader approach we are able to better understand and respond to SOC within our communities.

Following a successful project in one part of West Yorkshire, we have now invested in a dedicated SOC Community Coordinator that seeks to identify and develop partnership opportunities around SOC and enhance connectivity internally and externally across the County.

Recognising the pathways into SOC and where the crossovers are with Serious Violent Crime is fundamental to developing a whole systems approach that can address all these priority areas. Engagement and the development of this thinking in conjunction with the Violence Reduction Unit is being developed however there are still further opportunities to enhance co-delivery within this area both through the VRU Knowledge Hub but also around the commissioning of interventions.

The mapping and response to Urban Street Gangs (USG's) is a key example of a pathway into SOC. All USGs are managed through established SOC processes, are mapped and scored and have a Lead Responsible Officer.

Recent work by Leeds district alongside Liaison and Diversion and the VRU funded St Giles Trust, have been able to provide an effective peer-mentoring response to help step these individuals away from the dangerous and criminal behaviour and provides a strong example of how a collaborative response can be effective.

How SOC Activity Informs Neighbourhood Policing

Our focus on strengthening the links between neighbourhood policing and Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) continues to mature. The SOC Local Profiles are now an embedded part of SOC delivery across districts, with work focussed on the identified high SOC harm wards. The SOC LP's, in both internal police and partner versions, have been very well received and are guiding work both within the Precision Executive Steering Group and also local Silver SOC boards.

As a pilot force for the Home Office developed Clear, Hold and Build (CHB) methodology, we are leading the way nationally in using this model to deliver a partnership response to SOC. The work using CHB was recognised by Chief Constable Jupp, NPCC lead for SOC, at a recent Home Office national launch of CHB. We are now using the CHB methodology in a number of districts and sit on the national CHB delivery board to provide feedback and identify good shared practice around the use of this.

Recognising the importance of our neighbourhood staff having a strong understanding of SOC and those other colleagues involved in the delivery of this work, work over the past 6 months has included the development of 'Precision PCSO's'. This is a cohort of PCSO's who work within the wards of highest SOC harm as identified by the SOC Local Profiles. The PCSO's have volunteered to take on this additional training alongside their normal duties and have received an initial days training in June 21 from SOC subject matter experts. The cohort come back together on a quarterly basis for further sessions, networking and discussion on their work. The first quarterly session took place in Sept 21 and some positive practice has been identified as a result of the wider awareness of SOC issues and greater relationships forged with Precision teams both within district and at PSC.

The SOC Community Coordinator has been working with Bev Adams to support the development and delivery of the Community Champions model and the faith framework, developed with The Diocese of Leeds. Both programmes are helping to identify the most

effective pathways into our communities to deliver the key messages around SOC and work with Bev will continue to explore how this can reach into other groups within our neighbourhoods.

Violence Reduction Unit – Headline Updates

West Yorkshire Hospital (A&E) Navigator Programme Hospital Pilots

Funding allocated for continued delivery of existing A&E based Navigators into 2021/22 at Leeds GI, St James and Bradford RI.

Community Links - Support of existing (specialist) place-based provision to provide additional and ongoing support to young people who have been referred through the hospital navigator programme, focused deterrence car and other partners/statutory organisations.

West Yorkshire Responses to Domestic Abuse

IDVA in Police Control Room - A domestic abuse specialist based within the Police Control Room at Elland Road, Leeds

'Tackle it' Project - Delivered through the Leeds Rhinos Foundation a project focused on working with both perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse at HMP Wealstun.

West Yorkshire Education/Inclusion programme

Pilot in Wakefield is currently being implemented in conjunction with an identified secondary school and associated feeder primary schools with the aim of increasing attendance and reducing exclusions.

West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Programme

Catch 22 - The Catch22 Gangs and Violence Reduction Services support the management of prisons by reducing the risk of violence and aggression posed by gang-involved prisoners in HMP Leeds.

Custody Diversion - Since December 2019, St Giles Trust have been working alongside the Police and West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service to combine their service with culturally competent SOS case workers with lived experience of serious youth violence and criminality across West Yorkshire.

Locality Based Early Intervention

Grant funding arrangement with each CSP, supported by the VRU for interventions aligned to the priorities in the WY Response Strategy, but responsive to local need.

Night-Time Economy

Working within each district NTE/licencing team to identify targeted early intervention and prevention initiatives related to alcohol fuelled violence and sexual assault within town and city centres within West Yorkshire.

Trauma, Adversity and Resilience

Whilst the VRU are working with the Health and Care Partnership on a wider programme of work relating to Trauma, Adversity and Resilience (ATR), specific funding has been provided towards the development and implementation of a West Yorkshire training collaborative and an ATR Navigator in A&E/primary care pilot based on learning from Year 2 of the VRU.

Current Challenges, Impact and Next Steps

The easing of the lockdown and the removal of restrictions continues to yield an inevitable increase in incidents of violence. Operation Jemlock is working with local district colleagues to support them in the policing of their night-time economy and any specific localised increases in violence related offences.

Recently, the VRU recruited a dedicated analyst to assist the Jemlock staff to ensure they have evidence-based hotspots for our deployment model. This member of staff enabled us to deliver the analytical work required to identify our hotspots. The quarterly returns are now required to detail exactly where our officers have patrolled, for how long and to what outcome. This level of detail is not easy to record and report, however the team are working hard to ensure the Home Office receive the standard of returns they have requested.

As previously mentioned, we are working towards being able to identify young people who come to prominence as a result of any enforcement actions by the police but who may also benefit from being referred to early intervention or diversionary initiatives. This will depend on data sharing issues, but we anticipate that this will not be a bar to doing so.

There will be a continued focus on how the VRU, and enforcement can work in unison. In particular, we will consider how dedicated and specialist serious violent crime enforcement work can continue beyond March 2022, should there be no more Grip funding forthcoming.

