



The Violence Intervention Project

August 2022



Welcome to the Violence Intervention Project!

I am pleased to introduce you to the VIP team and share the great work being done to support young people in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The project launched at the end of 2019 and has developed significantly since then. The VIP workers are based in Accident & Emergency at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and in police custody at Euston Street. We are part of the Violence Reduction Network and are their flagship service delivering interventions for preventing repeat victimisation and recurrences of perpetration for those involved in or at risk of serious violence.

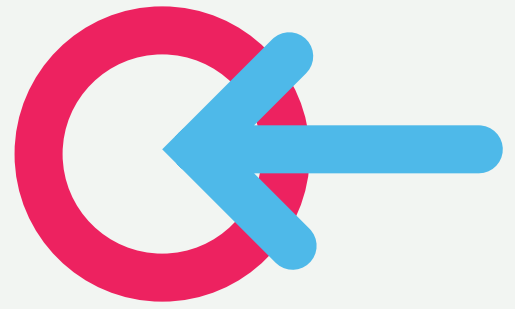
We aim to meet young people aged 11-25 in these 'reachable moments' in A&E and Custody to provide them with an opportunity to make positive changes to their lives and break the cycle of violence. VIP workers engage with these young people in the community once they have been discharged/released for as long as they would like the support.

I am very proud of the growth and success of the VIP team, and look forward to sharing our journey with you.

Bethany Shakiba
Team Leader



The VIP Journey



The VIP Team (L to R): Hemal, Chloe, Clifton, Bethany, Abi, Mayuri, John

From A&E to Police Custody

The journey for the VIP has been short but mighty!

The project began taking referrals from the Leicester Royal Infirmary in January 2020. Being based in A&E allowed us to work alongside clinical staff to support young people presenting with injuries related to serious violence such as knife crime. In this busy, and sometimes scary environment, VIP workers provide young people with an opportunity to share how they are feeling and begin to build a trusting relationship before they are discharged. The VIP worker will then meet the young person in the community to identify their immediate risks and to create goal-orientated plans.

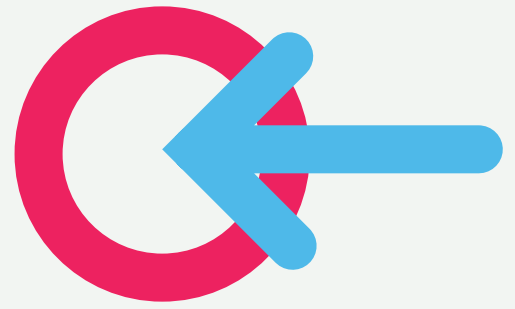
Despite some delays in delivery due to COVID, the project continued to show successful

outcomes for young people involved in our service which led to Turning Point attaining the contract for the same service in Police Custody.

The custody side of VIP launched in December 2021 and since then we have received an exceptionally high number of referrals. The VIP workers meet young people in their cells and show them empathy and understanding for their situation. We aim to use trauma-informed approaches to prevent re-traumatisation, which could include playing card games with them or taking them out to the exercise yard.

Overall, the VIP team have seen and supported over 400 young people in A&E since January 2020 and over 300 in custody since December 2021 which is phenomenal.

Out in the Community



Making Connections

The VIP team are actively involved in attending events in the community to build relationships with professionals, community leaders, families and young people.

In February we attended an event hosted by Leicester City in the Community for their young people involved in the Premier Kicks program. The VIP team had a stall to share information about our service, but we also delivered a series of workshops with young people about knife crime and safety in their local neighbourhoods. Young people shared their experiences and knowledge of violence onto post-it notes which were then displayed on a wall for everyone to see. The voices of these young people included stories of peers carrying knives for safety and witnessing assaults or stabbings. On a more positive note, their stories also described their love of diversionary activities and how being involved in football and other sports has been a positive influence for them.

In June we supported the Unity and Fun Day organised by the Khidmah Organisation at Crown Hills Community College. VIP workers met young people and spoke with them about our service and met with local police officers and other organisations that are dedicated to improving the outcomes for young people. Also in June, we attended the Leicester Wellbeing Champion's Conference which placed VIP at the heart of discussions around young people's wellbeing with key partnerships and stakeholders in Public Health.

We have many more events coming up and look forward to any new invitations we might receive!

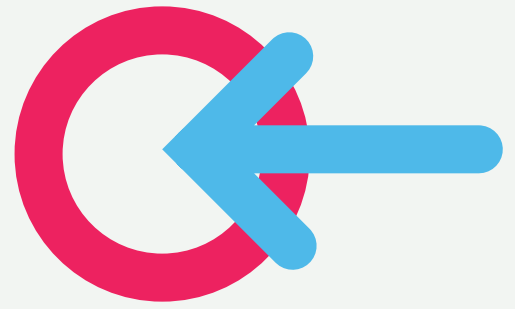


Unity and Fun Day at Crown Hills Community College (June 2022)



Leicester City in the Community Event (February 2022)

VIP Outreach Interventions



Examples of interventions

Prevention Through Connection

A key part of the work that the VIP team do is engaging with young people in their communities, doing activities that they want to do.

Once a young person has been assessed, we work to improve areas of their life including:

- Relationships with family/friends
- Education/employment
- Mental and physical health
- Interests and hobbies
- Substance use and other risky behaviours
- Self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing
- Personal safety

We encourage young people to step out of their comfort zones and achieve goals they didn't think were possible. When they are involved in playing a sport with us, or on a pedalo or even up a climbing wall, we find that young people open

up and trust us to listen to their most private thoughts, feelings and motivations.

By developing these meaningful relationships with young people, we are able to support them in reducing their risks of being involved in serious violence. All the work we do is person-centred and paves the way for young people to be more independent and take control of their lives in a positive way. Some might only be with us for a couple of months and others up to a year, but we know that the work we do will have an impact on them for years to come.

Keep in touch with the work we do by giving us a follow on Twitter using the handle @TurningVip

If you want to get in touch for more information, please email LLRVIPteam@turning-point.co.uk