

## NATIONAL JOINED UP SUMMIT FOR YOUTH WORK

In November, members of the VRN team attended the first national Joined Up Summit. Brilliantly organised by the national youth work charity UK Youth, cross-sector leaders and youth



workers joined young people to share insights and good practice from across the country. The overarching focus was on driving forward national collaboration to ensure we build a brighter future for our young people which holds huge relevance and synergy with the VRN's mission to build an inclusive, collaborative and courageous partnership capable of securing system wide change.

The summit heard from The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, who outlined the imperative on all of us to ensure children and young people are safe and have access to relationships and services which make a positive difference to their lives. Delegates then attended a range of workshops, led by young people, to learn about examples of cross-sector initiatives having positive impacts. We were delighted to be part of such a positive and ambitious day.

At the end of the day, UK Youth's out-going Chief Executive Officer, Ndidi Okezie launched the Joined Up Institute, a year-round cross-sector experiential learning initiative to scale evidence of what works to transform outcomes for young people. Alongside a series of annual inter-connected learning events, the institute will also develop a framework which supports practitioners to put evidence into action and feed their learnings back into the national events. The VRN Director, Grace Strong, will be part of the Joined Up Institute Steering Group and the wider team will support local partners, including community-led youth work provision, to benefit from this invaluable initiative.

**Click to follow!**

### THE VRN IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

We have a new social media platform!  
Our Facebook is: Violence Reduction LLR

Follow us to find out the latest news and webinar offers!



 [www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk](http://www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk)

 [@VR\\_Network](https://twitter.com/VR_Network)

 Violence Reduction Network LLR

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## SCHOOLS NETWORK RE-LAUNCH

The VRN Schools Network has been re-launched with an expanded remit and a wider array of partners to share learning and resources related to violence and vulnerability prevention including child exploitation, knife crime and online harm. The Network also seeks to identify opportunities for collaboration on new interventions, training and campaigns. The Network has over 170 members from schools across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who regularly meet throughout the school year.

There are regular agenda items from key partners including education leaders, the police and local authorities.

[Find out more here](#)

## LIVESAFE PROFESSIONALS PAGE COMING SOON

The VRN has been working with partners from the Live Safe Development Group to create a new section on the Live Safe website for Professionals. This section will include information and resources, useful links, ways to get involved and help and support. There is also a section for Schools and Colleges, providing information around education packages around key topics affecting the safety of children and young people, information, guides and resources.

The Professionals pages will be live in January 2025.

# LIVE SAFE



[Sign up here](#)

## LIVESAFE PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP: KNIFE CRIME

The VRN have co-produced a workshop for parents and carers with partners on the Live Safe Development Group around knife-related harm and how to keep children and young people safe. This workshop enables parents/carers to understand knife-related harm and its impact, the reasons why young people are vulnerable, approaches to prevention and information on how parents/carers can keep their children safe. Parents/carers can sign up to the first virtual workshop which is being held on January 22nd 6pm-7pm.



## REFLECTING ON A POSITIVE YEAR FOR COMMUNITY SPORTS

This year, there has been an increase of weekly accessible sports sessions for young people in priority areas, delivered by locally trusted organisations. We have also seen an increase within secondary provision, allowing those with vulnerabilities to access suitable sporting opportunities, such as direct referrals from Leicester City children and young people's justice service into 1st legion mixed martial arts gym, where sessions are sports plus and adapted to the needs of the young people.

We have also seen more collaborative work to increase secondary provision within hotspot areas. Unity boxing and E2 have collaborated to provide a free boxing session for the young people within Beaumont Leys and are looking to increase the number of weekly sessions to reach more young people.

There has also been a number of workforce development opportunities that have been accessed from mental health first aid, to managing challenging behaviour and sports activator courses.

We are looking forward to further developing the community sports sector and we are very grateful for all the continuous hard work the sector puts in to provide opportunities for young people across LLR.



## YEF NEW REPORT

**YEF: Children, violence and vulnerability Report**

**YEF: Key Facts About Violence Report**

Recently, the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) have published a number of reports of relevance to the VRN partnership, including 'Key Facts About Violence' and a series of reports linked to their third annual 'Children, Violence and Vulnerability' review. The full reports can be found on the YEF's website.



## THE SNA IS COMING SOON

This quarter, the VRN have been developing our annual Strategic Needs Assessment. Look out for the publication of our executive summary and key findings in next quarter's update!



## WEBINARS

The VRN partnership has created a series of virtual free-of-charge webinars that provide individuals and organisations with information and resources around preventing and reducing violence. Webinar topics include: Understanding Serious Violence, Using a Public Health Approach to Prevent Violence, Safeguarding sessions, Developing a New Organisation, Substance Use and Using the Evidence Base to Set Up New Projects. Partners can register attendance on our ticket tailor link below.

**Book your free  
tickets here**

## PHOENIX HIGHLIGHTED IN RECENT HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE REPORT

The Phoenix Programme has been highlighted as an example of good multi-agency prevention practice in a recent inspection of Leicestershire Police. The team hosted a visit from the Inspectorate and outlined the design and delivery of the programme and how the analytical team track progress and impact.

Phoenix is a local programme which works with young people and adults who are involved in serious violence. Using an evidence-based approach called focussed deterrence, participants are offered high levels of support from services and communities balanced with deterrence activity if concerns persist or escalate. It's a strong example of multi-agency working with police, probation and youth justice working closely together with an enhanced level of support from a community navigators. Since the programme commenced last year, 55 participants have completed the programme and have achieved a range of positive outcomes including a reduction in violence and wider crime.



### PEEL 2023-25

Police effectiveness, efficiency and  
legitimacy

An inspection of Leicestershire Police

**Link to Phoenix  
Programme**

