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| Report title: Essex Violence & Vulnerability Partnership update | |
| Report to: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board | |
| Report authors: Samantha Grant, Violence & Vulnerability Unit (VVU) project manager (PFCC) Jim Pearson, VVU Operational Lead (Essex Youth Offending Service) | |
| Date: 18 th May 2022 | For: Discussion |
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| County Divisions affected: All Essex | |

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To share with the Health and Wellbeing Board (the Board) an update on the work of the county Violence and Vulnerability (V&V) Partnership.

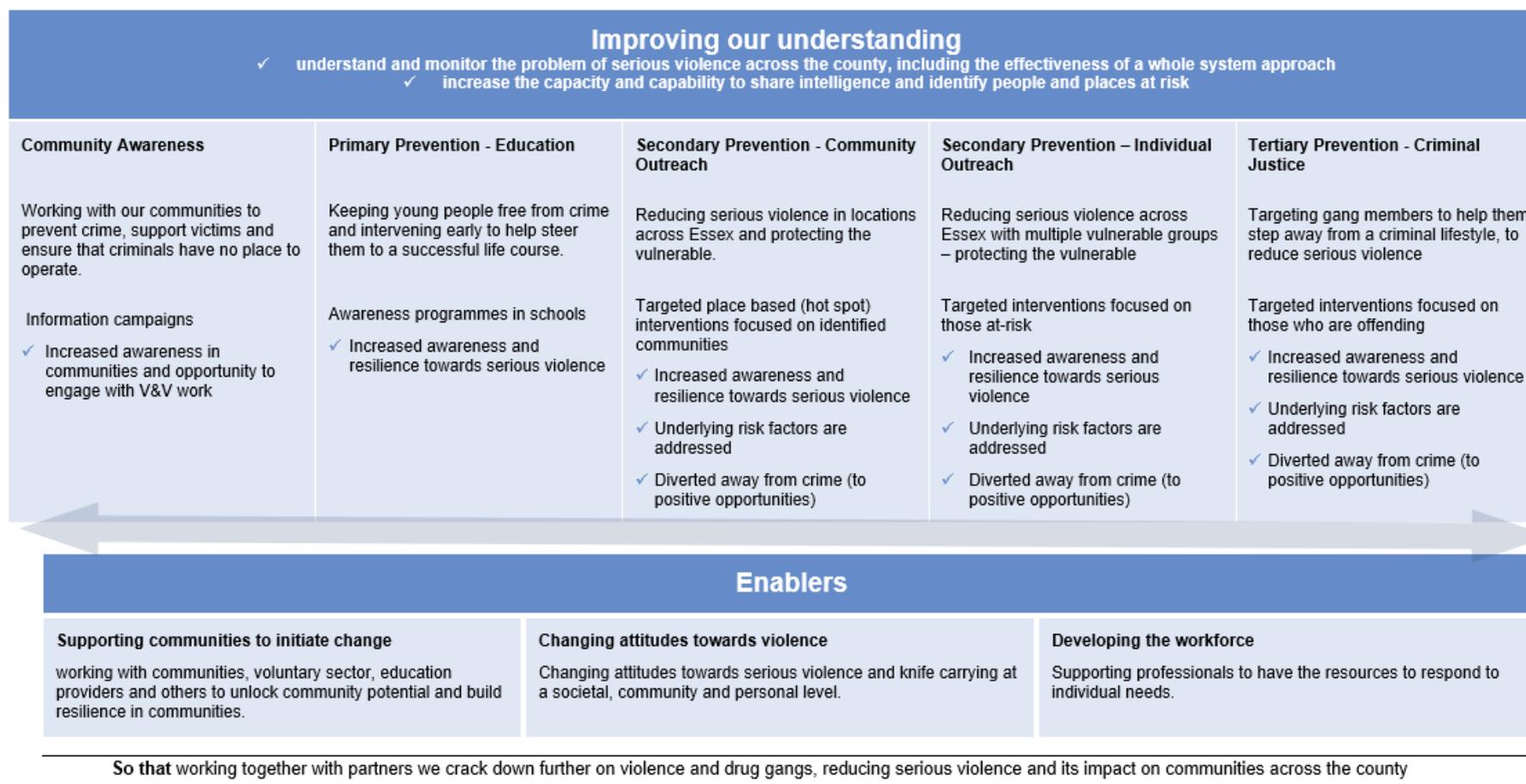
2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To consider and discuss how members of the Board would like to be kept informed of the V&V Partnership's work and progress.
- 2.2. To seek support from the Board to the development of primary prevention approaches to addressing serious youth violence, and areas of collaboration.
- 2.3. To help the Violence and Vulnerability Unit to identify the most appropriate routes for recruitment to a dedicated health post within the Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU). For this role to be instrumental in promoting joint work, sharing the lessons learnt and informing the future direction of work.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Essex V&V Partnership was established in 2019, following the development of the partnership county Violence and Vulnerability Framework developed in 2018, under the leadership of Safer Essex.
- 3.2. The focus of the V&V Partnership is to tackle serious violence and drug driven harm linked to gangs and County Lines, particularly for those under 25 years of age (based on the evidence of those most likely to be involved). Essex identified the issue of serious violence linked to gangs and county lines early, and put in place a partnership approach with commitment and leadership from organisations across the county, based on a 'public health' model.
- 3.3. In 2019 Essex was identified as part of the Government's Serious Violence Strategy as one of 18 Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) areas. 2022/23 is year four of this national VRU programme of work.

3.4. Essex V&V Partnership – whole system ‘public health’ approach



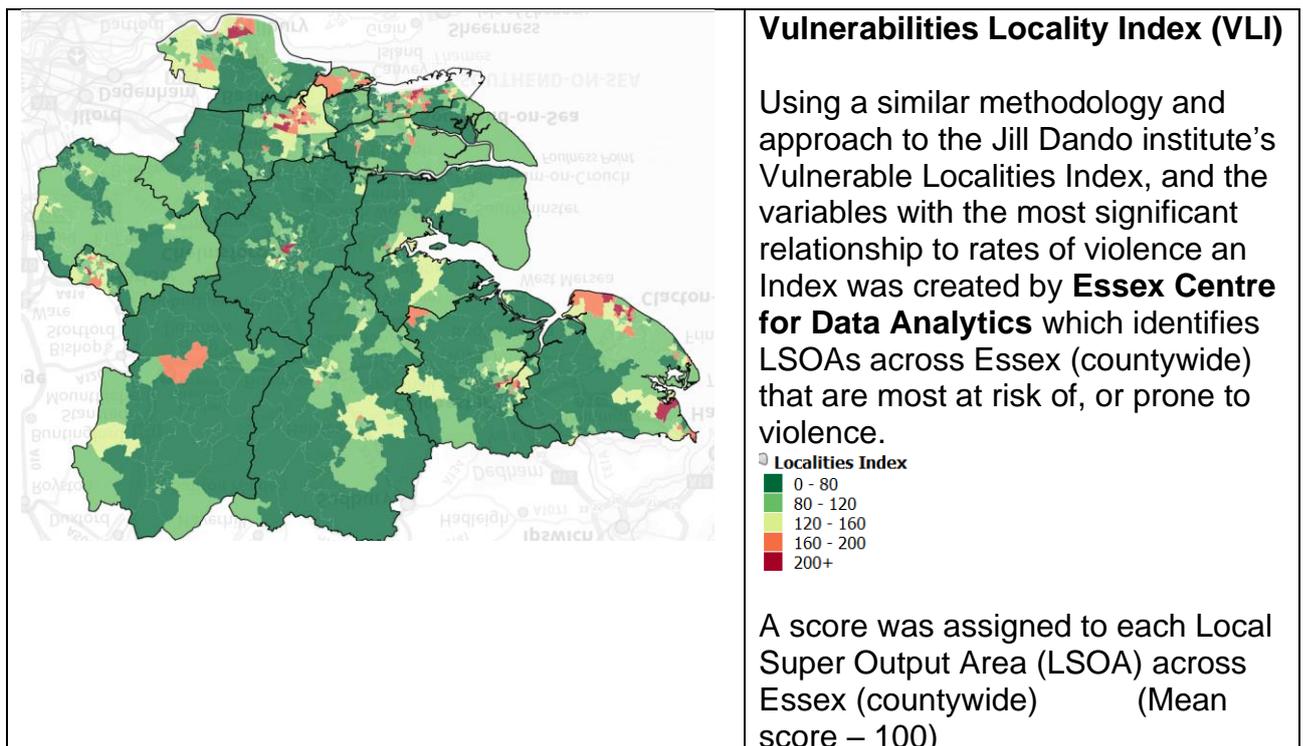
We measure our overall impact through:

- ✓ Improvement in public feelings of safety
- ✓ Reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- ✓ Reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25, based on police recorded crime data.
- ✓ Reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

4. Examples of current initiatives

4.1. **Supporting communities to initiate change** - Violence and Vulnerability Community Safety (VVCS) Grants of up to £20,000 awarded to local not for profit organisations, in response to issues identified through listening projects with young people, (led by Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services). Young people are also involved in assessing the applications. The funds are for work from January 2022 to March 2023. Please find a complete list of the projects in Appendix 1.

4.2. **Secondary prevention – community outreach** (locations across Essex)



4.3. The Vulnerabilities Localities Index (which is being reviewed currently), identifies areas of focus (localities with a score above 200 are considered for prioritisation). These areas are within Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Southend, Tendring and Thurrock.

4.4. An example of the interventions being delivered in partnership as part of this work is uTurn4Support 'Wellbeing & Resilience' project, in Tendring working with young people identified as at risk of offending. Activities cover physical and emotional effects of knife crime and exploitation; life skills; coping with stress and anxiety; consequences of unsafe choices; help seeking and support services; support to take part in wider activities in the local community. Through this work, uTurn4Support, will soon be working with four of the six secondary schools in the Tendring area.

4.5. **Secondary prevention – individual** - young people identified through police activity with proactive support led by Youth Offending 'Reroute' team. Two youth offending gang workers ringfenced (funded via V&V funds) to work with

young people identified through police activity, involved in and at risk of involvement in gangs, county lines and knife crime. This includes at the point a young person comes into police custody, pro-actively reaching out to these vulnerable young people, at a reachable moment. It also includes young people identified through OpRaptor police activity, and through Police Children and Young People Officers.

- 4.6. **Changing attitudes to violence** – using the real-life experience of Essex young people through five locally shot short films, the V&V Partnership ran a County Lines campaign aimed at young people, www.essexcountylines.co.uk, during 2020. The learning from the first wave was used to inform a re-run of the campaign which ran in 2021.
- 4.7. **Improving our understanding** - There have been issues with the sharing of information from the Police into the Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) forums, in addition to a desire to review the analytical products produced for the MACE. The VVU are working with colleagues to review these issues including ensuring appropriate links into the Essex Police analysts. Work is current on the development of a joint analytical package which can be produced for the MACE forums to provide key strategic information to assist in determining how best to deploy resources in response to key problems.
- 4.8. **Improving our understanding** – The ‘Information Sharing to Tackle Violence’ (ISTV) project aims to improve the insight available on the scale, size and locations of violent incidents across the county, with data shared from Essex Police, East of England Ambulance Service Trust, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, The Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust, and East Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust. We know from the Cardiff ISTV model that one half to two thirds of violence which result in hospital treatment are not known to the police. Information sharing agreements are now in place, and the flow of data from these partner organisations is imminent. The Partnership is using an existing platform (provided by Essex Centre for Data Analytics / ecda). The data will be analysed by colleagues within Essex Police. The data will be accessible to named individuals within relevant organisations, including the county’s 15 local authorities. This analysis will identify locations and cohorts for preventative action and inform our strategic approach to reducing serious violence in Essex
- 4.9. **Developing the workforce** - Through our training and development programme we are embedding learning and practices which lead to improved outcomes for children and young people involved in or at risk of serious violence. This includes an Exploitation Toolkit, in partnership with the Safeguarding Boards, developed to support those working with and identifying individuals at risk of serious violence or exploitation. Our aim is to ensure that for those who have been through the training they have the tools to support them with decision making around behaviours they observe. The toolkit enables frontline practitioners to easily understand the pathways and services available to them. It is hosted online so easily accessible to everyone at any time and leads front line workers through the steps they need to take. It has been designed to be responsive to the different systems that exist in the three

different areas (Southend, Essex and Thurrock) so that all teams are covered. A multi-agency team has worked together to devise and design the toolkit, this means that there is a consistent tool across the whole of Essex which all front-line workers are using.

5. Future plans

- 5.1. The V&V Partnership's approach is based on understanding the underlying drivers, responding to these, and recognising that this requires a long-term approach, if significant impacts are to be made and sustained.
- 5.2. For the work directly delivered by the V&V Partnership, the V&V Partnership has a joint budget which it uses as part of its work to address serious youth violence. For 2022/23 this consists of £2m from the Home Office VRU Fund, contributions from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner of £600,000 and £500,000 from Essex County Council.
- 5.3. The Essex 'VRU' model is about embedding practice and working within the overall Essex framework. Importantly building on and linking to a range of mainstream services and multi-agency arrangements. The Essex V&V Partnership recognises that:
 - Some of this work is through direct delivery by the V&V Partnership
 - Some through supporting others to initiate change – including communities
 - & some by influencing the development and delivery of services by a range of organisations and partnerships.
- 5.4. Based on the overall approach to reducing serious youth violence, as outlined in section 3.4, the V&V Partnership has developed a case for investment for 2022/23 to 2024/25 and a delivery plan for 2022/23.
- 5.5. The 2022/23 delivery plan is subject to final agreement by the Partnership. The headline areas for delivery include:
 - A greater focus on primary prevention, including through supporting and working with schools to identify the most appropriate inputs to build resilience and social skills. This includes for example reviewing what is currently in place, the evidence base, and how V&V can complement and support work in this area.
 - Learning from the Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital Youth Service Project, and considering where further roll out to other health settings (adopting this reachable moment approach) is appropriate.
 - Continued focus on data sharing to support the work with children and young people at risk
 - Continued focus on sharing learning, including from evaluations, and where approaches are evidenced as delivering outcomes, how this can be scaled accordingly and in partnership with the most appropriate organisations and partnerships.

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| Appendix 1: VVCS Grants programme (January 2022 – 31 st March 2023) – funds awarded |

| Small organisation | Activities | Allocation |
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| AFI UK African families in UK | Youth work in youth settings across Colchester and Tendring , looking at wellbeing, parenting, linking with other provision / positive activities and raising cultural awareness. Offering positive diversionary activities while addressing the issues that are impacting on the young people and providing them with safe spaces to explore and discuss. Linking with community leaders from a range of backgrounds (including Colchester Nepalese Society, Bangladeshi Women Association Essex, the Colchester Chinese Culture Society, and the Colchester Malayalee Community) to engage a wide range of young people and identify youth settings to include in the youth work. | £19,500 |
| ATF (Achieve, Thrive, Flourish) | Work with young people in an area of Basildon , running sessions within the community, the project includes access to an NHS trained counsellor that provides instant access to support at crisis point; indoor/ outdoor safe spaces (linked to the local primary and secondary schools). Developed in response to a request from Basildon Community Safety Partnership. | £19,100 |
| Building Lives Project | Provide 1:1 coaching and mentoring to children and young people aged between 9-18 years old, at risk of or involved in serious violence. Based in Chelmsford (countywide) . | £20,000 |
| Cara Essex | To increase the counselling and therapeutic support provided to young people (aged 12-19) who have been victims of sexual violence. A specialist young person's practitioner working on a one-to-one basis with up to 15 young people at any one time. (Countywide) . | £20,000 |
| Changing Lives, Harlow | To support the development of the Community Hub for young people to feel safe and have access to sports activities. | £20,000 |
| Colchester Utd | Working with schools and youth clubs in Tendring (Clacton, Jaywick, Shrub End) and in Colchester (Greenstead). Creating a new workshop package to | £13,750 |

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| | schools and youth clubs in the areas focusing on reducing crime and increasing awareness of the exploitation of young people. For the programme to also provide an avenue for young people to gain work experience through volunteering opportunities with the organisation and the football club. Using the brand of the football club to shape career pathways for participants of the workshops, with the long-term goal of creating new employees of the football club (linked with Kickstart). | |
| Doddinghurst Road Church, Brentwood | To support the funding of a detached youth worker (funding being sought from other sources to sustain for three years), working to build relationships with disadvantaged young people, aimed at those young people most at risk of exploitation. Including through pre-existing work, for example Brentwood Foodbank. Developing new projects that promote greater communication and positive engagement between the police, youth groups and schools. | £20,000 |
| Inclusion Ventures | Working with young people in their communities, Jaywick and West Clacton, Tendring . To include supporting individual young people in the steps back into employment or education; working closely with Police children and young people officer in the provision of activities; weekly night cafe for the older young people exposed to drug culture and the violence that arises around it; and respond to young people's suggestions for diversionary activities. | £19,500 |
| Kids Inspire | Healing Connections - early help therapeutic services to children and young people who are at an increased risk of engaging in violence/ crime. With referrals from health, social care, police and education sectors. Support sessions delivered by qualified, accredited therapists. (Based in Chelmsford, countywide). | £20,000 |
| Maldon CVS | The Maldon Power of Gaming project supporting young people to build social connections and confidence through gaming. The project is aimed at 13 – 19 year olds with sessions in a social environment (online and in person) with sessional workers who are there to help the young people feel comfortable. Power of Gaming was a project set up by a local computer business in 2019 though stopped due to Covid, lessons learnt from this earlier work captured and plans in place to build on these. | £19,920 |
| Motivated Minds | Working with the communities of Basildon , to raise awareness of the "HAPPY Hub" as a safe space for young people; dedicated youth club sessions for children and young people; workshops for young | £19,570 |

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| | people on staying physically safe and positive relationships. Along with building partnerships with police and other professionals to use the space for delivery of talks to young people and parents. | |
| Open Door | Developing Social Isolation project aimed at Care Leavers, 16-21 year olds, living in Thurrock . The project provides regular group meetings which involves a structured programme of support including, independent living skills, social activities, guidance and support about keeping safe, healthy & unhealthy relationships, Looking after their mental health and community volunteering. As well as help with budgeting, and employment and training opportunities. The project aims to help young people build new networks within their own communities as well as new networks amongst group members. Mentoring supports those young people who find group activities more of a challenge. | £20,000 |
| Outhouse East | Support and access to specialist counselling for those vulnerable or at risk, with a focus on LGBTQ+ young people, whose experiences are often impacted because of their sexuality or gender. The work includes drop-in services in schools to reach out to young people, as well as raising awareness of support organisations and services. North Essex . | £12,615 |
| Scouts | For a "Growth and Development Officer" for 15 hours per week for 15 months, to support Essex Scouts in their growth and development of new provision in areas of need, so more young people at risk within communities can access Scouting and its activities. The work includes recruitment and support of local adults, Young Leaders (14-18); reaching out and providing taster sessions for young people and adults in communities in need of provision; offering the 4 Week Challenge to identified communities. Developing high quality, exciting and inspiring activity programmes - where young people can take chances and learn from this in a safe environment. | £20,000 |
| Southend United | Early intervention and early education for children in years 5 and 6 at primary schools in Southend , with a focus on raising awareness and understanding of the dangers of getting involved with drugs and gangs. The project includes improving the awareness and understanding of these issues amongst parents, with a focus on social media. Workshops and events will be delivered in targeted schools. In addition, for a large-scale event at Roots Hall stadium aimed at increasing overall awareness of the project. | £17,570 |

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| <p>Teen Talk Harwich</p> | <p>Tendring – working with 16 –25 year olds and 10-11 year olds, (year 6) age ranges. Responding to issues from ‘Youth Voices project’. To revisit the groups which took part in the “Youth Voices project” and develop youth led ideas in response to the issues identified. As part of this to continue to develop relationships with young people through schools and through detached youth work, creating awareness of existing services and focus on how young people can get involved. Examples of the issues identified, in the Tendring area, “feel a lack of role models and positive community members that young people can talk to” and “want more community based activities”. including “feel a lack of role models and positive community members that young people can talk to” and “wanted more community based activities”.</p> | <p>£18,924</p> |
| <p>The Children’s Society</p> | <p>To support the development of an early intervention referral pathway and group work programme for young people who are stopped and searched and are found to be in possession of cannabis (and not covered by current provision). With an offer to the young people referred into the service a one to one assessment to understand their life as they experience it as well as identify barriers to engagement: and participation in group sessions. For the sessions to focus on and allow the young people to explore: associated risks and consequences and the health impacts of cannabis use; physically and mentally; harm reduction methods and ways to stop the use of cannabis, including advice on diversionary activities; peer pressure/ grooming behaviours – what forms these can come in. (Countywide).</p> | <p>£20,000</p> |
| <p>The Wilderness Foundation</p> | <p>Providing wilderness therapy, aspects of counselling along with environment-focused activities, centred around a nature-based experience. To provide intervention programmes for those who have experienced youth/gang violence. The approach includes outdoor activities led by an outdoor facilitator offering training and skills in bush craft techniques, camp craft, outdoor volunteering such as tree planting or conservation; visiting specialist support in areas such as money management, employability training; and onsite counsellor to provide additional help to individuals in the group, for example to support those who have experienced trauma. (Countywide).</p> | <p>£20,000</p> |
| <p>Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 (Epping Forest)</p> | <p>Providing support for young people at King Harold Academy, and sessions at Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 hub, Brooker Road for young people and their families. Working with young people, either through self-referral or from the school, to identify patterns of</p> | <p>£10,000</p> |

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| | behaviour and support through counselling. Also providing arts, crafts, and mindfulness sessions as part of a Parent Drop-In facility, giving parents the opportunity to socialise with other parents, have the support from their peers and reduce their stress levels. | |
| Canvey Island Yellow Door | Working with young people between the ages of 11 and 25. To provide a youth worker to support young people through one-to-one mentoring and supporting the provision of a range of clubs and activities which will provide young people with safe spaces and offer them informal education on a range of issues, including substance misuse, internet safety, criminal exploitation and healthy relationships | £20,000 |
| | | £370,449 |